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OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 150TH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 10TH DAY OF
AUGUST THROUGH THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022, AT
TARRYTOWN HOUSE ESTATE, 49 EAST SUNNYSIDE LANE,
TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK.

August 10, 2022

B E F O R E: JOHN P. FARRELL, JR., President

Jamie J. Woodard
Court Reporter
P.O. Box 59
Ridge, New York 11961
(631) 345-2386

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning. The exits are located to your right and left. If there is an emergency at any point during the session, it will be announced from the dais and directions will be given. Please exit the ballroom in an orderly fashion.

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I would also ask that you please silence your cellphones and pagers now. If you are going to make a motion, or a second, please step to the microphone and clearly state your name and affiliation. Thank you.

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At this time, I would like to call upon the Town of Athens Fire Service for the Posting of the Colors.

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(Whereupon, Town of Athens Fire Service Posted the Colors.)

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MR. FARRELL: I would ask that everybody please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant-at-Arms Tom With.

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(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all led by Sergeant-at-Arms Thomas With.)

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MR. FARRELL: I would like to call upon our Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster for an opening prayer.

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(Whereupon, opening prayer by Chaplain
Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

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MR. FARRELL: Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, do we
have a quorum?

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SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: Yes, we do.

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MR. FARRELL: I hereby call the 2022 and
the 150th Anniversary Annual Meeting to order.

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Mr. Secretary, I will be leaving the podium
to go and meet with the Governor outside. Thank
you.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: We just ask for a little
patience. The Governor is on her way. She
should be here shortly. So we'll take a little
break until she gets here.

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(Whereupon, there was a brief recess.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: I want to thank
everybody for their patience. If you could
please take your seats, the Governor is here. If
you could get the room under control.

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. FARRELL: Kathleen Hochul served as an
Erie County clerk from 2007 to 2011. Before
that, she was a Hamburg Town board member for 14

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2 years. From 2011 to 2013, she served in the US
3 House of Representatives for New York's 26th
4 congressional district. Congressman Hochul
5 served as the House of Armed Services and
6 Homeland Security Committee. As Lieutenant
7 Governor from 2015 to 2021, she successfully
8 spearheaded numerous initiatives and led the
9 administration economic development and job
10 creation efforts across the state.

11 She also has helped New York State manage
12 the COVID-19 pandemic response, while focusing on
13 a recovery to build back better and more
14 inclusive.

15 As Lieutenant Governor, she championed the
16 "Enough is Enough" law to prevent sexual assault
17 on college campuses, spearheaded the state paid
18 family leave program, worked to eliminate the
19 gender wage cap, expanded access to affordable
20 child care, and combatted sexual harassment
21 discrimination in the workplace.

22 Currently, I am happy to say she served as
23 the first female Governor of the State of New
24 York. On a personal note, it is important to say
25 that she's been a great friend and a loyal

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supporter of the volunteer fire service and the EMS services. She has shown great respect to our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice by speaking at every fallen firefighter ceremony since she became Lieutenant Governor.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor of the Empire State, Kathy Hochul.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Nice to see you. Is that Wayne Jagow in the front row? He was county clerk when I was county clerk. Different political parties, but joined in spirit. We were always fighting New York State, weren't we?

REVEREND JAGOW: Yes.

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: So I am so happy to be here today. I was driving on a cold, winter day, it was the middle of February, and I get a message I'm supposed to call John Farrell. John Farrell needs to talk you. John Farrell wants to talk to you. What's it for? You have to talk to John. Well, he says, can you come to an event we're doing for the 150th anniversary in August?

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2 I'm like, I'm barely Governor. I don't know
3 about the calendar that far in advance. The
4 answer of course was yes. There is no way I
5 would have missed this extraordinary gathering
6 and this milestone of 150 years of an association
7 that's been out there fighting for the people who
8 fight for us every single day. So I am so
9 grateful to be here to meet our President; and
10 also Edward Tase, I want to thank you, a fellow
11 western New Yorker. I assume that he's a Buffalo
12 Bills fan.

13 (Laughter.)

14 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: I better double check on
15 that. I think that goes without saying. They're
16 going to be here for 30 years. I think we'll win
17 a couple of hits on that in --

18 (Laughter.)

19 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: -- other parts of the
20 state, but I think a lot of our states appreciate
21 we have a team in New York; and I've had the
22 chance to know him and his work with Western New
23 York firefighters as well.

24 Also Eugene Perry is here. Thank you for
25 your work as our Second Vice President; and also

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Jackie Bray, my Commissioner. Have you had a chance to meet my Commissioner?

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: She is extraordinary.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Literally yesterday we were at a convening of people -- I was on Zoom, and she was in person -- for a two day training session. People from all over the state to talk about domestic terrorism and how this is literally the source behind so many horrific crimes that are not far from where Ed and I live in the City of Buffalo. Back in May, on May 14th, the slaughter of individuals because of white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and it's rearing it's ugly head; and so law enforcement locally and local departments, and many of you are the eyes and ears in your community to see things. We are focusing on giving money, because unlike other mandates and the local governments, we're giving ten million dollars to local governments to help be partners with us in fighting domestic terrorism; and Jackie Bray, our Commissioner, heads that as well.

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Jim Cable, our New York State Fire

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Commissioner is here as well.

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And I also want to acknowledge a very sad occasion, but one where we just never fail to

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show our love to a particular family and that is

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to Sabrail Davenport, the mother of firefighter

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Jared Lloyd, who we will be honoring; and I think

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Darius and Don is here. I don't know if the

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little one is here yet.

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UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not yet.

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GOVERNOR HOCHUL: I was promised I'm going

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to see a two year old.

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(Laughter.)

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GOVERNOR HOCHUL: I just became a

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grandmother. My grand baby lives far away --

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(Laughter.)

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GOVERNOR HOCHUL: -- so I just try to grab

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a little kid whenever I can -- but thank you for

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your family's sacrifice.

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Also County Executive George Latimer is

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here as well. I want to thank him --

23

(Applause.)

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GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Is Robert Ortt here? Oh,

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you are. I walked right passed you. Good to see

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2 you again. Minority Leader of the Senate, and
3 different parties, but we work very closely
4 together in many projects supporting the town and
5 community that he is the Mayor of and really
6 transforming that community; and I'm so proud of
7 those things happening in the city of Tonawanda,
8 North Tonawanda, the whole Niagara County region.
9 It was lost for a long time, and now it's found
10 its way, but thank you for your leadership as
11 well.

12 I know Tom Aninanti is here. Tommy must be
13 joining us as well. Chris Tague is here. Yes,
14 maybe. So anyhow, I want to make sure I don't
15 leave anybody out, but with that, this is 150
16 years, an extraordinary organization; and boy has
17 it changed. 1872, and it's always been such a
18 powerhouse, and I think about that, it's not just
19 what -- It's also the advocacy of this
20 organization in Albany. And why do I know this,
21 because you all came and found me and my staff, a
22 lot of budget sessions. So you're also fighting
23 for important legislation, that if it wasn't for
24 this group, you wouldn't know how pretty
25 important it is. And so as a result of your

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2 advocacy, you created the volunteer firefighter
3 recruitment and retention task force, it's a big
4 name, but I know how important this is, because
5 recruitment is really important. All of you,
6 many of you, some of you, like even Ed, started
7 when you were 14 year's old. Is that right?
8 Fourteen, he was a little kid, but you had this
9 sense of service and this responsibility to
10 community even as a teenager some of you. Others
11 I see, this is generational. There are so many
12 families where grandpa, son, grandson, and
13 families really are so steady to their commitment
14 to community service that it becomes a
15 generational phenomenon, but we also have to find
16 ways to bring more people into this. The
17 volunteer firefighters corp is so critically
18 important. It teaches great skills to young
19 people, responsibilities, and also just life
20 skills, life skills and the sense of taking care
21 of other people, which is really what we're all
22 on this earth to do is to look out for each other
23 at a very human, spiritual level. That is our
24 responsibility. So we also want to make sure we
25 have language in our budget to help you be able

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2 to provide emergency medical services, which you
3 do anyhow and establish fees and be able to
4 charge for those services, because you need to
5 support yourselves as well. I've been to a lot
6 of barbecues, it doesn't sustain you. You need
7 other sources of funding, so you need to have the
8 resources. We also signed legislation that was
9 important to you to ban carcinogenic flame
10 retardant chemicals and household items and
11 furniture and electronic enclosures. You don't
12 think about that, but firefighters are often
13 exposed to the dangerous chemicals and the fumes
14 when they enter a home or a building and want to
15 make sure they're safe as well. So I want to
16 thank you for what you've done for fighting for
17 our firefighters and our EMS personnel.

18 I also want to thank and recognize the role
19 you played during the pandemic. Extraordinary.
20 And because we have emergency orders in place, we
21 have been able to allow the EMS families still to
22 administer vaccines. I can't tell you how
23 important that was. When we were short medical
24 personnel, you were able to step up, and even now
25 with the declaration of the emergency with Monkey

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Pox, which we're trying very hard to control, we also now have the ability to have your members who are EMTs be able to administer vaccines for that as well. So you are a way we can also expand our really stressed healthcare workforce through your EMT work as well. So I'm looking forward to continuing that work as well.

I also want to say a couple of things. I know a little bit about going to some of your events, because I was a local government official for 14 years. Fourteen years, town government. I had 10 volunteer fire companies in my town. Do the math. That's a 140 volunteer fire and installation dinners.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: I needed a lot of babysitters for those 14 years; and every Saturday night starting in January, all the way sometimes in March or April, right; and I said -- my husband's like you've got a standing Saturday night date. I was about 35 years old when I was first elected in local government. I had not done a lot of public speaking. I was intimidated. -- Fire Company right in my home

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2 asked me to give the installation speech. Well,
3 I had been to them, but I had never been the MC.
4 I had been a guest. They're always so funny.
5 They're always up there telling jokes, so I went
6 on the internet. That was the kind of pre-Google
7 days, you had to like really search the internet.
8 I'm looking up, clean firefighter jokes.

9 (Laughter.)

10 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: It turned out the search
11 could not find any.

12 (Laughter.)

13 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: I was up there making all
14 kinds of stories up, but I have a great husband
15 who is a federal prosecutor, worked closely with
16 people in this community, so he knows the kind of
17 jokes to say, but I'm really, really proud to be
18 able to participate in so many times. We have
19 1,631 volunteer fire companies. That's
20 extraordinary. Ninety one thousand people have
21 answered the call to serve, serve their
22 communities; and that's 1.6 million incidents a
23 year that you've responded to, and I always have
24 these numbers. When I went to my fire companies
25 and talk about what each person did, but it

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2 wasn't just the number of responses they went to,
3 the calls they went out on, that was how many
4 times they got up from their dinner table and
5 left their plate cold with the spouse maybe that
6 worked hard to prepare it for them or would be
7 leaving the softball game or maybe trying to
8 coach a little league game and having to say, I'm
9 sorry, sweetheart, I can't be there; sorry, son,
10 I can't be there. So I saw that. The statewide
11 averages 4,400 calls a day. That's a lot of
12 disruption to families; and so I always took the
13 opportunity to continue to do so to honor the
14 families, because this is not just a volunteer
15 firefighter that lives their lives, these are
16 integrated; and it's not just the social affairs,
17 it's not -- It's also that sense of we're in this
18 together; and yes, I will stay home and keep the
19 fire burning so you can go out there and
20 literally put out the fires elsewhere. And
21 that's what this is all about, and I want to
22 honor the families who cherish what you do --

23 (Applause.)

24 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: (Continuing) -- and we
25 cherish them as well.

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2 I also want to recognize the sacrifices
3 involved, not just the sacrifice of time and
4 holidays and family gatherings, experiences that
5 are lost, but also sometimes the loss of life.
6 And as you heard, I have made it my mission to
7 never miss the opportunity to speak on behalf of
8 the state government, eight years as Lieutenant
9 Governor, at a firefighter's memorial service,
10 because I am so -- when I go there that there are
11 fellow New Yorkers who are so selfless, who so
12 believe in taking care of your fellow men and
13 people you have never met before, that they're
14 willing to put their lives on the line, and
15 sometimes that final bell does have to ring, and
16 we lose some of our best; and I would sit there
17 hugging family members and spouses and children
18 and grandchildren, and just what can you say,
19 what can you say to them, other than I can't
20 believe the pain you must be going through, but
21 also, I hope your heart is swelling with pride,
22 the pride of knowing that you raised an
23 individual who is so selfless; and so I think
24 something happened at the dinner table, having a
25 child who grows up and wants to be a firefighter.

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2 I really do. Something is taught to them. They
3 get this from their parents. They get this from
4 their family. So I just want to take a moment to
5 just honor Jared Lloyd. He was 35 years old,
6 same age as my son; and our hearts break for you
7 even today. Look at what he did. Look at what
8 he did. He was so courageous. We all have
9 to ask yourselves, would I really be able to do
10 that. I know I ask myself that. I know every
11 one of you who ask yourself and the people you
12 represent. The answer is yes. The answer is
13 always yes. I will run into harm's way, because
14 that's what I'm hardwired to do, and I am trained
15 to do this. I have skills. I have abilities to
16 save lives, and I'll put myself out there for the
17 hope of saving at least one life, and that's what
18 he did.

19 And to all of you, the family I mentioned,
20 Sabrail, Darius, and John, I just want to pass on
21 the love of 20 million New Yorkers who are so
22 grateful that there are people out there like
23 your son and all the people in this room and
24 those you represent who are willing to do exactly
25 what you did.

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2 So I leave here just saying onward to
3 another 150 years. This is an extraordinary
4 organization. You'll always have an open door to
5 talk to us about your needs, your concerns, what
6 we can do to support you, because without you, we
7 don't sleep safely at night. When I tucked kids
8 in when I was a young mother, and now I tuck in
9 the grand baby. I don't go to bed feeling safe
10 and secure unless I know you're out there and be
11 willing to answer that call in the middle of the
12 night to help protect all of our families across
13 the state; and as the Governor, I'm just here to
14 say thank you, thank you; and congratulations to
15 our leadership team. Congratulations to all of
16 you; and God bless and keep every one of you
17 safe.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. FARRELL: Governor, on behalf of the
21 officers and members of FASNY, this is just a
22 small token of our 150th. Cherish it.

23 GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Thank you very much. Is
24 it heavy?

25 (Laughter.)

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MR. FARRELL: We'll let John carry it.

(Laughter.)

MR. TASE: Governor, on behalf of the association, this is one of our 150th challenge coins. Display it proudly, and thank you for your dedication.

GOVERNOR HOCHUL: Thank you.

MR. TASE: Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Please be seated.

Next to the podium, Senate Minority Leader Robert Ortt. From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014, the Senator served as Mayor of North Tonawanda. In that role, he developed executive experience with an in-depth understanding of local government. Prior to becoming the Mayor, he served as the City Treasurer and then Clerk-Treasurer of North Tonawanda, making him the first ever city official to hold that title.

At the start of the 2019 legislative session, the Senator became the Ranking Member of the New York State Committee on Agricultural and the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs.

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In June of 2020, Rob was elected the Minority Leader by his colleagues in the Republican Conference.

Rob enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in October of 2001 in direct response to the attacks on September 11th. He has received the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Afghan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge in recognition of his outstanding service.

I welcome our Senator Minority Leader, Robert Ort.

(Applause.)

SENATOR ORTT: Anybody that can say North Tonawanda on the first try that's not from western New York --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: (Continuing) -- that's a keeper. So I want to -- I've been a lot of places where they've really struggled to say that, but if you're from western New York, you got it down.

It's great to see everybody here. This is a great event to be at. I do want to thank the

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2 Governor for being here. They say 90 percent of
3 life is showing up, and that's certainly true in
4 politics and in government. She no doubt has a
5 lot of demands in her time, and she was here
6 today. I think it's a great recognition to the
7 importance of the volunteer fire service and the
8 importance of this organization specifically.

9 This organization, you should all know,
10 when you're out doing what you have to do in your
11 home communities, FASNY is representing and
12 advocating for all of you and all of your members
13 in Albany; and it is not an easy job. There's a
14 lot of people clamoring for everybody's
15 attention, and FASNY does a terrific job. You
16 have great leadership. Certainly outgoing
17 President Farrell, he's left this in a better
18 spot than he found it; and he's turning it over
19 to somebody who I'm very proud to know, Ed Tase,
20 a Lockport guy, a Frontier Fire Company guy,
21 someone I've known for a long time, and it really
22 fills me with a lot of pride. I represent
23 Niagara, Orleans, to part of Monroe. So any
24 further north you're in Canada, but it's a great,
25 great part of the state. To have a Niagara

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2 County guy, who as you mentioned -- or as the
3 Governor mentioned -- he started when he was 14
4 years old. Now I'm sure this is a good change of
5 pace. Instead of saying who's the oldest guy in
6 the room, we can have a debate about who started
7 in the fire service the youngest. Ed when he was
8 14, and has been doing it, I believe, or just
9 shy -- and I don't want anyone doing math -- just
10 shy of 50 years, if I'm not mistaken. Is that
11 right, Ed?

12 MR. TASE: Pretty close.

13 SENATOR ORTT: Pretty close, pretty close.
14 So we'll say the less than 50. That's the
15 important thing there.

16 (Laughter.)

17 SENATOR ORTT: He's been doing a great job,
18 and I'm just so proud that he's reached this
19 level and then all of you -- because everybody
20 knows, 150 years in the volunteer fire service,
21 my district is mostly protected and defended by
22 volunteer firefighters. When I was Mayor of
23 North Tonawanda, we had a hybrid force. That was
24 my first experience with volunteer firefighters,
25 so I have a great appreciation for what you do,

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2 but everybody in this room knows that if we're
3 going to get through the next 150 years, there's
4 a lot of work to do; and it's going to take real
5 leadership. It's going to take leadership from
6 your partners in government, your elected
7 leaders, but it's going to take leadership at
8 this level as well; and you have some of them who
9 is that leader who's going to step up and help
10 make sure that we're here not 10 years from now,
11 not 20, or 150 years from now, but we're going to
12 make sure there's a volunteer fire service to
13 continue to protect the people of New York State,
14 whether you're in Niagara County, whether you're
15 in Westchester County, or anywhere in between;
16 and I would just again, it's an honor to be with
17 you here today, and I do want to thank the family
18 of Firefighter Lloyd, because it's a reminder,
19 it's a reminder that what you do there are risks
20 and costs, that's why it's so important. That's
21 why it's so important, because you're willing to
22 go out there and put your life on the line and
23 maybe not come home to your family so that
24 somebody else goes home to theirs; and that's a
25 sacred bond that you make. Guess what? We owe

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you then in return for that bond to take care of you and make sure you have the resources and make sure you have the right laws to protect you and make sure that you're here to continue to protect us into the future 150 years from now; and I know you have the leadership to do that.

I want to thank outgoing President Farrell. I want to thank Ed. It's good to see you up here. It's great to be here with all of you. You already heard about Wayne Jagow, so I don't have to go into him, but he's great too.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR ORTT: But it is great to be amongst you. I'm going to keep my remarks brief. God bless you for all of what you do, and God bless FASNY; and here's to the next 150 years.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: At this time, I would like to just recognize two state officials, and that's our Commissioner of Homeland Security and Emergency Service, Commissioner Jackie Bray.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: And then also our State Fire

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Administrator Jim Cable, who all us fire coordinators work with on a daily basis.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: And finally this morning it's my turn.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 150th Anniversary Convention of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York. We've been planning this event for more than a year and hope that you truly have a fabulous experience.

The convention this year includes an extra day. Included into our schedule is our annual two percent tax forum, which will be held on Thursday afternoon in the Mary Duke Ballroom at 1:00 p.m., a dinner cruise around Manhattan on Thursday evening, our Annual Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial Scholarship Night on Friday, and of course, the 150th Anniversary Firefighters' Dress Parade on Saturday afternoon, which is being hosted by the Tarrytown Fire Department.

At this time, it is my great pleasure to introduce the current FASNY Officers and

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Directors. I've been very fortunate to work with such a talented group of people, and I am happy to say that we approached every challenge as a team and encouraged everyone's input to find the best way forward.

Please stand as I call your name. I ask that you hold your applause until the end of all introductions:

My First Vice President, Ed Tase, Jr.;
Second Vice President, Eugene J. Perry, Jr.;
Immediate Past President, Steven E. Klein.

My **Directors**: Michael R. Caron, Jose DaRocha, Donald J. Farrell, Frank Guarino, Laurie M. Hance, Kenneth J. Holmes, Sr., Michael K. Krummenacker, Diana G. Pfersick, Andrew E. Pilecki.

Your **Appointed Officers**:

John S. D'Alessandro, Association Secretary; Sean Kerwin, Association Treasurer; Andrew Doyle, Director of Operations; the Reverend Barrie-Lyn Foster, Chaplain; Thomas With, Sergeant-at-Arms; Juan Batta, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

Association Counsel:

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The Hannigan Law Firm, PLLC; Terry
Hannigan, Timothy Hannigan.

Thank you. Let's give a round of applause.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I now ask First Vice
President Tase to take the podium.

MR. TASE: Good morning, everybody.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. TASE: As we celebrate the 150th
Anniversary of this great association, the
Firefighters Association of the State of New
York, we have to remember those who have worked
so hard through those 150 years to help us to
continue.

It is my pleasure to introduce some of
those individuals today.

With us today is Past President Gunnar
Neilson.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Past President James Williams.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Past President Joseph Finnegan.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Past President David Jacobowitz.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Past President James Aloysius

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Burns.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Past President Robert

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McConville.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Past President Kenneth

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Pienkowski.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: And one of my mentors for the

13

last four years, and I thank him tremendously,

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Immediate Past President Steve Klein.

15

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Our Past Directors who assist

17

these Presidents as they move through the terms

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of their office, the leadership of the

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association: Stuart L. Gates.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Roy Dahlen.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Paul Van Arts Dalen.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: K. William Grant.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: William Nichols.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Edward Sendlenski.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: James Cayey.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: David J. Sweet.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Michael Reid.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Brian McQueen.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Robert Ottaviano.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Santo Chan Rivera.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: And also with us is some of our

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Past Officers:

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Our Chaplain Emeritus, as you heard

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earlier, Reverend Wayne Jagow.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Treasurer Emeritus Thomas

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Krawczyk.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: I thank you, gentlemen, for your help and your guidance in helping this association to reach this 150th milestone.

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Thank you very much. Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: For purpose of introductions, Second Vice President Perry to complete some of those introductions at this time. Thank you.

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MR. PERRY: Thank you, President Farrell. Good morning, everyone.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

14

MR. PERRY: The association would also like to recognize the following staff members for their hard work performed throughout the year and during this convention.

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Please stand as I call your name.

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Chris Roberson, our Director of Information Technology.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: James Dorward, our Director of Facilities.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: Karen Wendling, our Director of

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Development.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: April Rounds, our Special
Projects and Events Coordinator.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: Francesca Connell, the Office
Business Coordinator.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: Marti VanDeBogart,
Administrative Assistant.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: And one of the newest members
of the office staff is Tyler Schroder, our Staff
Accountant.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: I neglected our Director of
Human Resources, Colleen Simo.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: I now ask Trustee President
Jerry Owenburg to come to the podium for the
introduction of the Board of Trustees of the
Firemen's Home. Jerry?

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MR. OWENBURG: Thank you, all.

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Our present Trustees are now: Myself,

1
2 Jerry Owenburg, President, 2013; Pete Cincotta,
3 Vice President, 2014; Dennis Eickoff, Secretary,
4 2014; Alan Way, 2012; Mike De Vittorio, 2013;
5 Marilyn Schrader, 2014; James Interdonati, 2016;
6 Anthony DeMarco, 2018; Marty Thomas, 2018;
7 Douglas Van Etten, 2019; Walter Frame, 2020;
8 Marsha Holland, 2020; Michael Kislack, Sr., 2021;
9 Thomas Rothdiener, 2021; Thomas McKinney, 2021;
10 John Farrell, Jr., FASNY President, 2020.

11 These are the sitting trustees as of right
12 now.

13 Thank you, gentlemen and ladies.

14 There's some past Trustees. They're called
15 past Trustees, but once you're in the gold, the
16 gold knows you're always in the gold. You can
17 always ask these people to help you with anything
18 you need at the home.

19 We have Gunnar Nielsen, 1978 to 1988. He
20 was also Home Trustee President, 1983 to 1985.
21 He was also President of FASNY, 1996 to 1998.

22 Robert Darling, 1979 to 1989.

23 James Burns, 1986 to 1995. He was also
24 Home Trustee President, 1993 to 1995; and
25 President of FASNY, 2012 to 2014.

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R. Dennis Randall, 1988 to 1999; Home
Trustee President, 1995 to 1997.

James Daley, 1990 to 2000; Home Trustee
President, 1997 to 1999.

James Farrell, 1995 to 2003; Home Trustee
President, 2001 to 2003.

Jose DaRocha, 1995 to 2006.

Michael R. Ryan, 1998 to 2008; Home Trustee
President, 2003 to 2005.

John Montrose, 2000 to 2011; Home
President, 2009 to 2011.

Norman Eberle, 2001 to 2012.

John Farrell, Jr., 2001 to 2014; Home
President, 2011 to 2013; and FASNY President,
2020 to 2022.

Steve Klein, 2002 to 2012; FASNY President,
2018 to 2020.

Paul O'Brien, 2003 to 2013.

Carl Stefans, 2004 to 2014; Home President,
2013 to 2014.

Phil Butch Grella, 2006 to 2016.

Thomas McKinney, 2007 to 2017.

David Blair, 2008 to 2018; Home President,
2014 to 2016.

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David Wolf, 2008 to 2018.

William Murray, 2008 to 2014.

Walter Geidel, 2009 to 2019.

Stephen Goodman, 2012 to 2019.

Wayne Butts, 2010 to 2020; Home President,
2018 to 2020.

Frederick Griffiths, 2011 to 2021.

David Schmidt, 2011 to 2021; 2016 to 2018,
Home President.

These gentlemen took us here. We'll take
them the rest. We're taking care of 81 brothers
and sisters. We voted three more in. We've got
our administrator is at the home right now taking
care of our -- We had to stop him from coming
here because of COVID, but Keith Henchey is our
jewel at the home taking care of our brothers and
sisters; and we thank our staff.

Thank you for everything you've done for
the home. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Okay. At this time I would
like to introduce Senator Majority Leader Andrea
Stewart-Cousins. Andrea was born and raised in
New York to the parents who encouraged a life

1
2 grounded in education and service. First elected
3 to the State Senate in 2006, the Senator
4 currently represents Greenburgh, Scarsdale, and
5 parts of White Plains, New Rochelle, and Yonkers.
6 She previously served as a Westchester County
7 Legislator, and during her tenure was elected
8 Majority Whip and Vice-Chair. As a County
9 Legislator, she authored and passed a landmark
10 legislation, including the first human rights
11 laws in Westchester County. Before elected
12 office, Andrea Stewart-Cousins was the first
13 African American to serve as Director of
14 Community Affairs for the City of Yonkers.

15 In 2012, she became the first woman, and
16 African American woman, to lead a New York State
17 legislative conference. In 2019, she shattered
18 the glass ceiling when her peers elected her as
19 Temporary President and Majority Leader of the
20 State Senate.

21 In just her first year as Senate Majority
22 Leader, the Senator led the most productive
23 legislative session in the state history.

24 Ladies and gentlemen, our Senator Majority
25 Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: She's just coming in, so
stand by, please.

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The Senator has just a little delay, so I'm
going to move on.

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At this time, it is my pleasure to
introduce some of the special guests who
represents the home County of Greene.

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I'm not sure if he's here, but I certainly
want to recognize him, and that's New York State
Assemblyman Chris Tague.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: Also the Town of Athens
Supervisor Michael Pirrone.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: And a great friend in the
fire service, as he's also not only the Sheriff
of Greene County, but also the Chief of Kiskatom,
Peter Kusminsky.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: And also the New York State
Senator Michelle Hinchey.

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: At this time I'll have my

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First Vice President come to the podium for a couple of introductions as well.

MR. TASE: Thank you, John. Thank you for bearing with us. We really appreciate this.

We have a couple of other -- We have Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti -- Is he in the room?

Westchester County Executive George Latimer --

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: (Continuing) -- in the room. Thank you very much.

The Village of Tarrytown Mayor Karen Brown.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: The Village of Tarrytown has been a great supporter of this association and this convention and this celebration with our parade on Saturday. Thank you very much.

We have Diana Balling, President of LAFASNY.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Ken Preston, President of the New York State Fire Districts'.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Robert Kloepfer is representing

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New York State Fire Chiefs' Past Chiefs.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Bruce Heberer, Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: William Streicher, President of the New York State Fire Coordinators' Association.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: And our very own Thomas With, Chief Chaplain of the New York State Chaplains' Association.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: We have Ken Askew, President of the New York State Fire Police Association.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: We have Steven Hirsh, Chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council, with us this morning.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: We have the Vice Chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council, Kevin Quinn, with us this morning.

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(Applause.)

MR. TASE: We have representatives from the
Firefighters' Cancer Support Network, Tony
Cruz --

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: (Continuing) -- Ron Barz, and
Charlie Murphy.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Steve and Anita Heefner of the
Cumberland Valley Firemen's Association.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Thank you.

Tim Boel, Education Specialist; and Peter
Feid, Sales Executive, of VFIS.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Bob Timko, Regional Director of
Provident Insurance.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: David Lewis, Past President of
Maryland Firemen's Association and First Vice
President of Cumberland Valley.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Robert Rinaldi with the Village
of Tarrytown.

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(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Bob Timko, Regional Director of Provident Insurance; and Linda Flanagan from Marshall Sterling.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Can someone just check to make sure the Senator isn't here, please?

At this time, I would like to introduce Mark Shuda, the General Manager for the Tarrytown House Estate; Jennifer Cancro-Caputo, Sales Director of the Tarrytown House Estate; and Natasha Caputo, the Director of Tourism and Film for Westchester County, to deliver a few welcoming remarks.

(Applause.)

MR. SHUDA: Good morning, everybody.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. SHUDA: My name is Mark Shuda. I'm the General Manager of the Tarrytown House Estate. I can't tell you how delighted I am to be able to host your event this week. You know, when people ask me what business I'm in, you know, obviously I'm in the hotel business, and I've been doing this for years and years and years, but what I

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want to tell them is that I'm actually in the ego business.

(Laughter.)

MR. SHUDA: The ego business because everyone has one. Every guest that checks in, it's my job, it's my team's job, to try to make sure that their experience is exceptional. The ego business, we have to -- Of course I have to answer to investors, right; and they have their egos, and then we have the local community, and they have their egos, but I have to say is one thing about firefighters, firefighters have to be the most authentic, genuine people that I come in contact with; and I want to thank you so much for what you do for us. I am grateful for what you do, and it's my pleasure to be able to serve you this week.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: The first order of business for the convention of 2022 is to adopt the convention agenda as it is printed in the convention program.

Do I have a motion and a second?

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Please use the microphone in the center.

MR. BOEL: Tim Boel makes that motion to accept.

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

MR. SOSA: Frank Sosa, Rockland County, seconds it.

MR. FARRELL: Motion has been made and seconded.

All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

It is now time to begin our FASNY/LAFASNY Memorial Service, which will be immediately followed by the Heroes' Awards Ceremony.

Please welcome FASNY Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Senator Majority Stewart-Cousins is here. She is exiting the vehicle, and she should be in the room shortly, so we're just going to delay the memorial ceremony for a couple of minutes so she can make her remarks, and then we will go to the memorial

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and the heroes' ceremony.

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Everybody please stay in the room. One of the most important things -- or two of the most things that we do is the memorial ceremony and the heroes' ceremony. So please have a little patience and stay in the room.

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MR. FARRELL: Please stay in the room. She will be coming in momentarily.

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Good morning. Can I have your attention, please? Thank you.

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At this time, I would like to welcome Senator Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to say a few words.

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(Applause.)

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SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: I am just so happy to first of all welcome you to my district and congratulate you for the 150th convention bringing together, in my opinion, and I'm sure the opinion of everyone, heroes and she-roes. You know who you are, she-roes.

24

(Laughter.)

25

SENATOR STEWART-COUSINS: Raise your hand.

1
2 Okay, you don't have to. You don't have to, we
3 know who you are, but we know what you do. I
4 really want to thank your outgoing President for
5 all that he's done and tell you, as I know the
6 Governor was here, and I think the Minority
7 Leader, Bob Ortt, might be here as well, but on
8 behalf of the state legislators, we continue to
9 work as hard as we can to make sure that the
10 incredibly difficult job you have decided to do
11 on behalf of your neighbors, on behalf of your
12 communities, are aided by the things that we do.
13 That's why we made sure to put \$250,000.00 in the
14 budget this year. That's why we've allowed for
15 your ambulance to be able to bill for services.
16 We put an additional four million dollars, 4.6
17 million dollars, in the budget to be able to
18 bill. We've allowed communities to give
19 exemptions to volunteer firefighters. We
20 understand that your courage, your tenacity,
21 and your very, very huge commitment makes us all
22 better. We also realize that it's not without
23 its dangers. We know that you'll be honoring
24 Jared Lloyd for the services that he's provided;
25 and of course, in memory of the life he lost and

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the lives he saved.

So this is a solemn day, but it's a day for all of us to honor you, your commitment, and to thank you; and I thank you on behalf my members. I thank you on behalf of Senator John Brooks, who is himself a volunteer firefighter who makes sure that the issues are brought to the table. He chairs Veterans at Homeland Security, and his volunteer firefighter experience informs us; as is a member of my staff, Stu Barksdale, who's also a volunteer firefighter in Elmsford. So we know what you do. We have your back. We thank you; and while I'm here in Westchester, I do want to give a shout out to Richard Wishnie, who runs these services for Westchester County with his right hand, Susan. Thank you so much, Richard, for your continued service on behalf of Westchester County; and again, on behalf of the Senate, we thank you, and have a wonderful, wonderful convention.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Okay, at this time we're going to start the memorial service. Barrie-Lyn? Sergeant-at-Arms?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: All right, so most everybody in this room has been a firefighter for more than a few years, so when I say adapt and overcome, you'll understand. So we're calling out of order here while we're getting the procession for the memorial set up.

We have a couple of other dignitaries that are going to make some brief remarks. First is the Director of Emergency Management for Westchester County, Richard Wishnie.

(Applause.)

MR. WISHNIE: Good morning, everyone. I'll try to be brief. I know it's been a long program having all the dignitaries here, especially the Governor, is a real honor for this association.

First of all, congratulations from the members of the Department of Emergency Services for Westchester County on the 150th anniversary. This organization has played a major role as the Governor said and the other speaker just said. You're making things better for the people of New York State, and we're all proud of that. I'm also very proud to be a member of this association for more than three decades.

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2 When we came together last year, I
3 mentioned that I was fortunate enough to be
4 introduced and educated about volunteer fire
5 services from former FASNY President, and one of
6 the finest men I have ever known, Gunnar Nielsen.
7 His long term service to FASNY has been
8 extraordinary. Would you please welcome and
9 greet my friend, Gunnar Nielsen.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. WISHNIE: He will be the Grand Marshal
12 at the parade this year, and it's a great honor
13 for him. He certainly deserves it.

14 As you know, one of the biggest challenges
15 is the recruitment and retention of volunteers.
16 That has been particularly difficult during the
17 COVID-19 pandemic. Building on FASNY's
18 established program, Westchester County Executive
19 George Latimer has provided \$500,000.00 for a
20 program called HERROP, the Higher Education
21 Recruitment and Retention Opportunity Program.
22 This program provides active volunteer emergency
23 services personnel, both fire and EMS, with
24 tuition reimbursement or student loan repayment
25 assistance, up to \$6,000.00 per year. This new

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2 initiative has already awarded 55 applicants here
3 in Westchester County with \$250,000.00. It's an
4 exciting program, and it is helping. We need to
5 do all we can to recruit and retain.

6 Due to more than 7,000 EMS mutual aid calls
7 in Westchester the last year, we recently issued
8 a request for proposals for contractors to
9 furnish ambulance and personnel to supplement our
10 mutual aid program for three years. We also
11 issued a second RFP to hire consultants to help
12 determine the long term delivery of EMS here in
13 Westchester. With more than 50 EMS agencies in
14 the county, the goal is to seek regional
15 solutions within the fire and EMS community.

16 And finally, I want to salute Senator,
17 State Senator Shelly Mayer, for the introduction
18 of S.8432. That Senate bill will require that
19 EMS be provided by all municipalities, define EMS
20 as an essential service, and set standards for
21 EMS in New York State. It is shocking and
22 unbelievable that EMS is not considered an
23 essential service at the federal level and here
24 in New York State, like fire and police. Only 11
25 states, by their own initiative, recognize EMS as

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essential service and provide state aid to local governments to support EMS.

Let's hope that this bill will be approved this coming session of the state legislative.

Thank you for your time. Have a great convention.

(Applause.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: We also have Robert Rinaldi, a board member for the Village of Tarrytown. Bob, if you'd like to come up.

MR. RINALDI: Thank you. My name is Paul actually. Not sure how I became Bob, but you can call me Bob.

(LAUGHTER.)

MR. RINALDI: Thank you for being here, everyone. Good morning. I'm Paul Rinaldi, and I am a trustee here in the Village of Tarrytown. We're really, really honored to be here on behalf of Mayor Karen Brown and the Board of Trustees to welcome you to Tarrytown. Mayor Brown sends her best wishes, and she and some other board members are excited to see everyone on Saturday at the parade.

While you're here, if you're able to take

1
2 advantage, first of all, of this beautiful
3 facility at the Tarrytown House, but also please
4 take advantage of the myriad of things that
5 Tarrytown has to offer, including our historic
6 sites, our really beautiful parks, a really
7 vibrant downtown with incredible shops, unique
8 and amazing cafes, bars, and restaurants, and
9 incredible photo ops with our nonstop river views
10 and bridge views. So please, take advantage. We
11 have beautiful riverside parks and lots of things
12 to do. We're deeply proud of our village and our
13 community. Like many villages and communities,
14 if not most, one of the bedrocks of our most
15 precious commodities here in Tarrytown is
16 volunteerism. We, like a lot of towns, we're
17 built on volunteers. We volunteer -- We have
18 volunteers who selflessly took incredible amounts
19 of their time to every facet of the community,
20 parks, beautification, zoning, planning, library,
21 traffic, mobility, Board of Trustees. People
22 worked tirelessly to make this village a
23 wonderful home for us all.

24 As I stand here today though, I'm humbled
25 to see all of you volunteers, a vivid example of

1
2 the dedication to your communities. Here in
3 Tarrytown we have an incredible community of
4 firefighters. Again, that goes deeply in through
5 generations and families. The Chief is here.
6 What sets you all apart from other volunteers
7 really is that you choose as others, because
8 instead to put your lives on the line for your
9 community. You volunteer as first responders,
10 and in doing so, you protect all of us from
11 danger and harm. As the Governor said, I sleep
12 at night because I know, I know how well
13 protected I am in this town, but by doing so you
14 also see some incredibly difficult and at times
15 truly tragic things. We have firefighters whose
16 families, as I said, have been involved for
17 generations. They dedicate years and hours to
18 fire companies in every way. You'll see in our
19 fire companies are really wonderful community
20 hubs. I was as a child, I grew up, my godfather
21 and uncle was a firefighter in New Haven. I grew
22 up in the firehouse -- because it was such a
23 wonderful department to be in as kids and as a
24 kid feeling incredibly safe being around
25 firefighters.

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Our firefighters are great to work with our incredible police department to make and keep Tarrytown an amazing and special place it is. I know that most of us have pride in our communities, but Tarrytown is really great.

All volunteers deserve to be recognized and appreciated and receive the community support and the incredible gratitude. Through dedication in serving your communities and volunteering your lives, you're truly heroes, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do.

So again, on behalf of the Mayor and the Village of Tarrytown, we welcome you. We hope to see you exploring town. We also hope you have a great conference these next few days, and we look forward to a really fun and great parade on Saturday. We're really happy that the weather is going to be cooperating. I was just saying to Chief Tucci that I was worried about all of your uniforms marching in the kind of heat we've had. So you brought a reprieve to us in many ways.

So thank you so much for your time, and thank you so much for your service.

(Applause.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: So the script said Robert, so you may now forever use the name Robert at any FASNY event for the next 150 years.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Last but not least, one of our brothers in the fire service, Chief Richard Tucci, Chief of the Tarrytown Fire Department.

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(Applause.)

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CHIEF TUCCI: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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CHIEF TUCCI: Welcome to the Village of Tarrytown. To the officers and members of the Tarrytown Fire Department, it's been an honor to have been chosen to be the host of the 150th anniversary of FASNY. Who would have imagined a 150 years ago a bunch of dedicated volunteers would have started such a great organization? Think of the hours and generations of families that have been a part of such an incredible organization. It goes to show that hard work, endless training, tradition, and your dedication to the volunteer service has.

We hope you take advantage of the

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opportunity to celebrate the 150th anniversary and have a chance to enjoy good drinks, good food, and shops in which Tarrytown has to offer.

On behalf of the men and women in Tarrytown Fire Department, we open our arms to help anybody we can to make it the best convention yet.

We hope you have a great time at the parade on Saturday. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help on your journey here.

With that said, let's be thankful for what we have, remember and honor the ones we have lost.

May God bless you all. Stay safe, and God bless America.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: At this time, Barrie-Lyn, we'd like you to come up and start the program.

REVEREND FOSTER: Third time's a charm.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND FOSTER: We are going to now have our second annual LAFASNY and FASNY combined memorial service.

Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, are you ready?

SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: Yes, I am, ma'am.

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(Whereupon, the Colors were Posted by the
Town of Athens Fire Service.)

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(Whereupon, the National Anthem was
performed by Nancy Scorcia.)

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REVEREND FOSTER: You may be seated.

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What you didn't notice, Marilyn Farrell and
Dianne Werner placed the Bible and the rose on
the table.

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At this time, you may remain seated as we
pray.

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(Whereupon, an opening prayer by Reverend
Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

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REVEREND FOSTER: At this time, please
stand for the National Anthem by Nancy Scorcia.

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(Whereupon, the National Anthem was
performed by Nancy Scorcia.)

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(Applause.)

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REVEREND FOSTER: You may be seated. Thank
you, Nancy.

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At this time, we will have Chaplain Dichian
come and read the scriptures.

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CHAPLAIN DICHIAN: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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CHAPLAIN DICHIAN: Today I'm reading Isaiah

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43, verses one through seven.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Dichian read the
Scripture Isaiah 43:1-7.)

REVEREND WASHBURN: A reading from the Book
of Wisdom.

(Whereupon, Reverend Washburn read the
Scripture Book of Wisdom 3:1-6,9.)

REVEREND JAGOW: This is a reading from the
Good News in John, chapter 11, beginning at verse
32.

(Whereupon, Reverend Jagow read the
Scripture John 11:32-44.)

REVEREND FOSTER: At this time, we will
have the Firemen's Hymn, Abide With Me, led by
Nancy Scorgia.

Would you please rise.

(Whereupon, Abide With Me was sang by Nancy
Scorgia.)

REVEREND FOSTER: You may be seated.

Now we will have Nancy McMaster come and
read the LAFASNY necrology for honoring our
deceased. When a name is read from either the
LAFASNY or FASNY list, please stand in honor of
them if you were one of their friends.

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MS. MCMASTER: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. MCMASTER: I will now read the departed members for 2021 to 2022, our LAFASNY members:

(Whereupon, the names were read.)

MS. MCMASTER: Thank you.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: We're now going to do the FASNY necrology.

Albany County: Daniel Burnetter, Maurice Catel, Patrick Farrell, Robert Ensign, Rocco Padula, Stephen Wright, Ted LaMountain, Trustee Walter Eck.

Broome County: Patricia Buckler.

Cayuga County: Richard Sullivan.

Chautauqua County: Albert Clody, David Cochran, John Kolpien, Louis Ziegler, Peter Bienko.

Columbia County: Peter Groll.

Cortland County: Gordon Wheelock.

Erie County: Anthony Wiatrowski, Delbert Dains, Dennis Cobo, Donald Sutton, Eugene Beszcynski, Eugene Haas, Frederick Kuhn, John Wicka, Joseph Schiersing, Michael Stafford, Past President Michael Wutz, Salvatore Volpe, Thomas

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Kessler.

Essex County: Andrew Barney, Donald
Whittemore, Lester Daby.

Franklin County: David Dukette, Gerald
Macey, Kenneth McLaughlin.

Greene County: Raymond Cook, Robert Frank.

Hamilton County: George Lancaster.

Herkimer County: Fred Crowley, Kevin
Wheelock.

Jefferson County: David Dean, Franklin
Kenyon, Glenn Dodge, James Potter, Leroy Homan,
Lyle Covey, Michael Semrau, Robert Washer, Roger
Toombs, Steve Garceau.

Lewis County: Alton Hill, Bruce Clarke,
Robert Griffeth, Warner St. Louis.

Madison County: Donald Dymes, Ford
Seymour, Joseph Loosman.

Monroe County: Edmund Welch, Lester
Fischer, Lewis Leone, Richard Crawford, Robert
Bock, Roy Chugg, Past President Thomas Eiswerth,
Thomas Vickery.

MR. KLEIN: **Nassau County:** Andrew Reilly,
Arthur Uberti, Austin Lewis, Daniel Thompson,
Donald Ferrucci, Donald Thomasino, Edward Ochman,

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2 Edwin Rahilly, Francis Califano, Frank Henriques,
3 Gary Gunning, George Herrmann, Guy Romano, Harold
4 Gundel, Igino Vecchione, James Reardon, John
5 Casale, Joseph Gargiulo, Joseph Hendrickson,
6 Joseph Torregrossa, Joseph Vicario, Lou Adduci,
7 Louis Aquilino, Louis Sarro, Michael Ornauer,
8 Peter Quaranto, Peter Skeris, Peter Trubish,
9 Richard Otto, Robert Herrmann, Russell Liotta,
10 Deacon Ted Kolakowski, Thomas Avitabile, Tony
11 Sturek, William Lahey, William Swift.

12 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: **Niagara County:** Allen
13 Zuch, Bob Stone, Donald Gick, Donald Phelps, Glen
14 Adams, Harold Wollaber, James Clewell, John
15 Muchow, Judy Spencer, Marcin Phillipp, Merle
16 Snell, Michael Kennedy, Patrick Brick, Richard
17 Hake, Richard Jerla, Richard Meka, Ronald
18 Diermyer, William Busch, William Norton.

19 **Oneida County:** Kenneth Baker, Oscar Olson,
20 Robert Moore.

21 **Onondaga County:** Brian Roach, Carl Oman,
22 Charles Horton, Charles Paddock, Christopher
23 Kazel, Claude Reith, Clay Crobsy, Edward Spinks,
24 Garratt Savage, Gary Boisseau, Gary Fritcher,
25 John Long, Martin Baranowski, Naomi Stroup, Peter

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Paul, Robert VanderBerg, Roger Shalala, William
Crowell.

Ontario County: Jack Beha, Shirley Miller,
Walter Judd.

Orange County: Edward Carr, George Romer.

Orleans County: Francis Neidert.

Oswego County: Paul Yerdon.

Otsego County: Thomas Roseboom.

Putnam County: Frank Weydig, Janine
Angelo, John Goodrow, John LaGuardia, Richard
Kirztl, Richard Pottberg.

Rensselaer County: Vincent Darrigo.

Rockland County: Arthur Wagner, Fred
Braband, Howard Schweitzer, James Miele, Robert
Lacy.

Saint Lawrence: Alex Krywanczyk, Donald
Labarge, Garnet Beckstead, Jerry Herne, Mary
Long, Raymond Stiles, Richard Daby, Richard
Riley, Sharon Andrews, Stuart Burnett, and
husband of our own Director Laurie Hance, Wayne
Hance.

Saratoga County: Allan Atwell, Harold
Martin, James Hassett -- two friends of mine and
brother firefighters from my department -- Peter

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Keating, and John TumSuden.

Schenectady County: Norm Petricca.

Schoharie County: Olien Spaulding.

Steuben County: Thomas Jamison.

MR. MCCONVILLE: **Suffolk County:** Albert Benincasa, Allan Dickerson, Anthony Galgano, Anthony Rignola, Barbara Fasolino, Barbara Strievski, Carl Stelzer, Charles Holmes, Conrad Vogel, Daniel Aube, Daniel Rall, Edward Grohoski, Florence Young, Floyd Miller, Frederick Roemer, Gene Scheuring, George Oates, George Tyndall, Harold McDowell, Henry Red Gensch, Henry Sorensen, John De Vaul, John Fitzpatrick, John Poulos, John Scherrer, John Trocchio, Joseph Clarke, Joseph Cushing, Kenneth Guercio, Lamont Lettieri, Larry Tomney, Leon Moran, Louis Iuzzini, Michael Gallo, Murney Lewis, Neil Finnin, Patrick Ida, Patrick Lauro, Paul DiBenedetto, Robert Elliot, Robert Loturco, Robert Schulz, Ronald Davies, Ronald Fieldsa, Stephen Feron, Stephen Nocella, Terrence Johnston, Thomas Costello, Thomas Mitchell, Thomas Ryan, William Bokelmann, William Buckley, William Haberman, William Lang, William Ryan,

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William Underwood.

Sullivan County: Benjamin Santos, Dick
Comfort, William Steinberg.

Ulster County: Duncan Wilson, Jim Avery,
John Rossitz.

Westchester County: David Sweeney, Drew
Outhouse, Edward Shaw, Frank Vassallo, George
Losee, John Cozza, John Johnson, John Massey,
Michael Hay, Michael Mongiello, Peter Chute, Pete
Worden, Robert Lorenz, Wayne Outhouse, William
Voss.

Yates County: Gordon Synder.

MR. EICKHOFF: **FASNY Firefighter's Home:**

Albany County: Randall Drobner.

Columbia County: Beatrice Tkacy, Frances
Mesick, Frances Dovigh, James Vining, Sr., Mary
Barringer, Margaret L. Busa.

Dutchess County: Marion Nardone.

Greene County: Margaret L. Roberts, Rose
Lennon.

Rensselaer County: Theodore Mulberry.

Warren County: Dennis Galloway.

Westchester County: Charles Fallace,
Christopher Richie, John Bernal, Sr.

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REVEREND FOSTER: Let us bow our hearts in a moment of silence as we remember those who have gone.

(Whereupon, there was a moment of silence.)

REVEREND FOSTER: Thank you.

At this time, we will have Patrick Wheeler play Taps. You may stand and salute.

(Whereupon, Taps was played by Patrick Wheeler.)

REVEREND FOSTER: Thank you. Please remain standing for our litany. Your responses are in the darkened print.

(Whereupon, litany by Reverend Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

REVEREND FOSTER: You may be seated. At this time it is my honor to introduce my friend, Chaplain William Mayo, the first Jewish Chaplain, to serve on the -- Oh, let me get this right --

What organization is this?

(Laughter.)

REVEREND FOSTER: -- Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

CHAPLAIN MAYO: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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CHAPLAIN MAYO: This FASNY memorial service for the departed members of FASNY, LAFASNY, and members of the FASNY Home on the Hudson, as you are aware, this is the 150th year of FASNY, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York. The executive staff and all members of the FASNY team have been working very hard for everyone here, the membership.

Unfortunately, the names that were just read and the tolling of the bell, was to remember those members that have passed. The following poem from an unknown author it's called, Remember Me. It is a poem that helps to remember these past members.

"To the living, I am gone. To the sorrowful, I will never return. To the angry, I was cheated, but to the happy, I am at peace; and to the faithful, I have never left. I cannot speak, but I can listen. I cannot be seen, but I can be heard. So as you stand upon the shore gazing at the beautiful sea, remember me. As you look in the awe at the mighty forest and its grand majesty, remember me. Remember me in your hearts and your thoughts and in the memories of

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the times we loved and the times we cried, the
battle we fought, the times we laughed, for if
you always think of me. I will never have gone.

In fond remembrance gathered here today,
tribute to pay the comrades that have passed
away, the garlands of flowers placed about our
dead springs the brightest blossoms death their
quiet bed. When duty called our comrades, they
would go, never daunted meant the fiery foe. May
guardian angels order them keep vigil here while
they lie resting in eternal peace.

Father in mercy, guide us on our way
through the storm and sunshine to this eternal
day; and when our duty here on earth shall cease,
may we with them abide in joy and in peace.

At the rising of the sun and it's going
down, we remember them. At the blowing of the
wind and in the chill of winter, we remember
them. At the opening of the buds and in the
rebirth of spring, we remember them. At the
shining of the sun, in the warmth of summer, we
remember them. At the rustling of the leaves
that in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
At the beginning of the year and at its end, we

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2 remember them. As long as we live they too will
3 live, for they are now part of us as we remember
4 them. When we are weary and in need of strength,
5 we remember them. When we are lost and sick at
6 heart, we remember them. When we have joy to
7 carve to share, we remember them. When we have
8 decisions that are difficult to make, we remember
9 them. When we have achievements that are based
10 on theirs, we remember them. As long as we live
11 they too will live, but they are now part of us
12 as we remember them.

13 And let us all say, amen.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

15 (Whereupon, God Bless America was sang by
16 Nancy Scorcia.)

17 CHAPLAIN DICHIAN: The Ladies Auxiliary
18 have a tradition to have an empty chair placed
19 near their table during the memorial service.
20 This poem and the chair is to honor and remember
21 those ladies that served before us and have gone
22 home to be with their God. It's called the Empty
23 Chair. "Sad times are now upon us as we stare at
24 the empty space where in the past we used to see
25 your bright and smiling face. God chose to call

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you home, and though we didn't think it was time,
our grief was overwhelming filling far reaches of
our mind.

The empty chair that sits there now
awaiting your return time will pass and memories
fade you'll be gone, but here we stayed. Our
time too on earth will pass and some day we'll be
free to join you there in heaven in the chair you
saved for all of we."

REVEREND FOSTER: Please join together as
Nancy leads us in How Great Thou Art.

(Whereupon, Nancy Scorcia sang How Great
Thou Art.)

REVEREND FOSTER: You may be seated.

That ends the memorial service. Thank you
so much for attending today.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Chaplain Miss
Foster, your committee, for a wonderful service.

I would ask that everybody please remain
seated, because we're able to begin the Annual
FASNY Heroes Award Ceremony, which is sponsored
by VFIS. We will be honoring Firefighters of the
Year and the EMS Provider of the Year.

I now ask the Chair of the Firefighter of

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the Year Committee Robert Outhouse and the Chair of the Emergency Medical Services Committee, Wendi Walker, to the podium for the purpose of conducting the FASNY Heroes Awards Ceremony.

MR. OUTHOUSE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. OUTHOUSE: President Farrell, Vice President Tase, Vice President Perry, FASNY Officers, LAFASNY Officers, Reverend Clergy, delegates, members, and distinguished guests, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2022 FASNY Heroes Awards Ceremony sponsored by VFIS.

It is truly my honor to stand here before you this morning as Chairman of the Firefighter of the Year Committee Awards and to present the awards for the 2022 EMS Provider and the 2022 Firefighter of the Year.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to turn this part of the program over to Chairwoman of the EMS Committee, Wendi Walker, for the presentation of the 2022 EMS Provider of the Year.

MS. WALKER: Thank you, Bob. Good morning, everybody.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. WALKER: I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please assemble the FASNY Officers, the EMS Committee, and our awardees.

At this time, I would call upon the Color Guard of the Athens Fire Department to lead the 2022 EMS Provider of the Year into the convention hall. This morning our recipients are being escorted by President John Farrell, Vice Presidents Ed Tase and Gene Perry; Vice President Joseph Giorgio is our sponsor for VFIS, and members of the EMS Committee.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to present the EMS Provider of the Year to Tom Bingham and Shawn DiSanto of the Aurelius Volunteer Fire Department.

(Whereupon, the recipients entered the convention room.)

MS. WALKER: Tom and Shawn, if you would remain standing.

The following is a synopsis that was presented and submitted by Chief David Perkins for the lifesaving efforts on the morning of April 25, 2021.

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You can all be seated, except for you two.

(Laughter.)

MS. WALKER: At 1:45 on April 25th, the Aurelius Fire Department, along with the Throop Ambulance and AMR, were dispatched by the Cayuga County 911 Center to the area of Cranebrook Drive and Johnson Drive in the Town of Aurelius for a motor vehicle accident. While in route, dispatch confirmed that a person did appear to be ejected and was laying in a ditch yelling for help with a possible serious head injury. Upon hearing the update of the possible mechanism of injury, a medivac was requested.

Aurelius Firefighter Shawn DiSanto was first to arrive on scene in his personal vehicle in approximately three minutes. Firefighter DiSanto did a quick size up and immediately started to comfort and reassure the patient. Approximately two minutes later, Aurelius EMT Tom Bingham arrived on scene in his personal vehicle and with his personal EMS bag. He was given a quick update on the patient from Firefighter DiSanto, which included significant trauma to the face and a right upper arm extremity. EMT

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2 Bingham quickly assessed that the patient's
3 airway and breathing were adequate, and he found
4 that the right upper extremity was almost
5 completed severed, and the patient lost a
6 significant amount of blood. At 1:51, EMT
7 Bingham applied a tourniquet to the patient's
8 upper right extremity, effectively stopping the
9 bleeding. At 1:53, Throop Fire Department
10 Assistant Chief and AEMT Brian Dahl arrived on
11 scene with additional EMS equipment. At that
12 time, EMT Bingham gave AEMT Dahl a patient
13 update, including the condition of the patient's
14 limb and the application of a tourniquet. AEMT
15 Dahl notified the Cayuga County 911 Center of the
16 amputation and requested the medivac to launch.
17 Additional patient care continued in the
18 application of a cervical collar, continuous
19 assessment of the patient's airway, obtaining
20 vital signs, and securing the patient's severed
21 limb. AMR arrived on scene at 1:59 and assisted
22 with the patient care. Once secure, the patient
23 was removed from the ditch and loaded into AMR's
24 ambulance for transport to the landing zone.

25 Post incident communications with Mercy

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Flight, who had direct contact with the trauma team at Upstate Hospital, indicated that initial patient care, including early application of the tourniquet, is what saved the patient's life.

The patient did reach out to the Aurelius Fire Department via Facebook and would like to thank and eventually meet with Firefighters DiSanto and Bingham to personally thank them for saving his life."

And that was what was submitted by their fire department.

Congratulations.

(Standing ovation.)

MS. WALKER: At this time, President Farrell, I will now ask you to step forward and present the prestigious Medal of Valor to Tom Bingham and Shawn DiSanto.

(Whereupon, President Farrell presented the Medal of Valor to Tom Bingham and Shawn DiSanto.)

(Applause.)

MS. WALKER: Vice President Tase, I would now ask you to present the Awards Bar.

(Whereupon, Vice President Tase presented the Awards Bars to Tom Bingham and Shawn

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DiSanto.)

(Applause.)

MS. WALKER: At this time, Vice President Perry will present the gift on behalf of the association.

(Whereupon, Vice President Perry presented a gift to Tom Bingham and Shawn DiSanto.)

MS. WALKER: I would now ask Joseph Giorgio, Vice President of VFIS, to come forward; and he's going to present their plaques to them for EMS Provider of the Year.

(Whereupon, Joseph Giorgio presented plaques to Tom Bingham and Shawn DiSanto.)

MS. WALKER: And now I ask for -- We have the Vice President from the fire department, Tyler Bench; and we have Past Chief Kevin Foster, if he would come forward. They're going to present them with the EMS Provider of the Year, the plaque for the fire department.

And Kevin is going to say a few words.

(Applause.)

CHIEF FOSTER: I don't have a teleprompter.

(Laughter.)

CHIEF FOSTER: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

CHIEF FOSTER: Chief Perkins, who wasn't able to be here, sent this message. "I would first like to apologize to Firefighter DiSanto and Firefighter EMT Bingham and their families that I was unable to be at the awards ceremony today to acknowledge and recognize your lifesaving efforts. First, let me say, we completely understand your hesitation of wanting to be recognized for your actions, because it's what we do, and it's part of the job, but we need to celebrate the success, because unfortunately, the longer you do the job, you will see far more loss to life and property. If we celebrate the wins, those memories will overshadow those memories of loss.

Today is a day of celebration. Today you are recognized for your success in lifesaving of a human being. This is not a story on a firehouse floor that will be told over and over with diminishing details. You were part of saving a life. Keep in mind, there will be plaques and certificates documenting your success in saving a life, but the true reward is knowing

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the person you saved will be there for Christmas,

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a father to his children, and a partner for his

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spouse. Without your intervention, none of this

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would be possible.

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On behalf of the Aurelius Fire District,

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the Aurelius Volunteer Fire Department, and the

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residents and visitors of the town of Aurelius, I

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salute you and commend your dedication to

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preservation of life and property.

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God bless.

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Chief Perkins."

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(Applause.)

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CHIEF FOSTER: On a personal note, these

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guys have really come through in a pinch.

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They're some of our newer members, and I think

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that we all agree that when we do this job, it's

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a team effort and training is the key to our

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success out there.

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And thank you to FASNY, FASNY Board of

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Directors, the President, Vice Presidents, the

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committee members, and to everybody that was part

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of putting this together for us.

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Thank you very much.

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(Applause.)

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MS. WALKER: And Tom and Shawn, we have a small token of thanks to give to you for you to give to your wife and fiancée.

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This year the members of the EMS Committee are Meryl Montrose from Suffolk County, Mike Quinn from Dutchess County, David Simmons from Delaware County, Royer Pfersick from Monroe County, Scott McRobbie from St. Lawrence County, and Jason Haggs from Ontario County. Our liaisons is Royer and Diana Pfersick from Monroe County; and then myself, Wendi Walker, from Niagara County.

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At this time, I would like to thank President Farrell for his appointment to Chairwoman to the EMS Committee, and it's been a great pleasure working with you.

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At this time, I would like to turn the program back over now to Firefighter of the Year Chairman Robert Outhouse.

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(Applause.)

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MR. OUTHOUSE: Thank you, Wendi, for that great presentation. I'd like to also congratulate Firefighter Shawn DiSanto and EMT Tom Bingham on an outstanding job as being named

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the 2022 EMS Providers of the Year.

I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please assemble the FASNY Officers, the Firefighter of the Year Committee members, and our awardees' family to the entrance of the convention hall.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce the 2022 Firefighter of the Year posthumously awarded to Firefighter Jared Lloyd of the Spring Valley Fire Department, Spring Valley, New York. Receiving this award this morning will be Mrs. Sabrail Davenport, Jared's mother; and Jared's son, Darius Lloyd.

At this time, I would like to call upon the Color Guard of the Spring Valley Fire Department to lead the 2022 Firefighter of the Year's family into the convention hall.

(Whereupon, the recipient's family entered the convention room.)

MR. OUTHOUSE: This morning our awardees' family is being escorted by President John Farrell, Vice Presidents Ed Tase and Gene Perry, and Vice President Joseph Giorgio from VFIS, the sponsor of today's program; and members of the

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Firefighter of the Year Awards Committee.

Joining the procession this morning is Jared's family, Mr. Calvin Lloyd, Jared's father; Mr. Rick Davenport, Jared's stepfather; Ms. Betty Lloyd, Jared's aunt; and Raina Fader, Darius Lloyd's mother; and of course, Darius Lloyd.

At this time I'll ask the Colors to go to at ease; and would you all please be seated, except for Jared's mom. And at this time I would ask Mrs. Sabrail Davenport, Jared's mom, and Darius Lloyd to please remain standing as I read the synopsis from the Spring Valley Fire Department, submitted by Chief Kevin Conjua's submission.

"On Tuesday, March 23rd at 00:53 hours, the Spring Valley Fire Department was dispatched to a reported smoke in the building at the Evergreen Court Home for Adults. This is an assisted living facility for handicapped residents and senior citizens unable to live alone.

Upon arriving, the fire chief reported flames coming from the roof with people trapped on the second floor. Arriving on the scene was the first due engine quickly recognizing that

1
2 this would be a life-saving operation and
3 immediately entered the building to begin
4 searching for trapped victims. Firefighter Jared
5 Lloyd, along with other firefighters from
6 multiple departments, searched for victims.

7 Over the course of the next 53 minutes, and
8 after changing his air bottle twice, multiple
9 helpless trapped victims were removed from the
10 smoke filled building by Firefighter Jared Lloyd.

11 With their Viber alarms sounding,
12 indicating that they were in danger of low air,
13 the last victim, who had been located in room 306
14 by Firefighters Jared Lloyd and Eric Cich, they
15 were able to hand them off, that victim, to a
16 firefighter awaiting in the hallway. Firefighter
17 Cich and Firefighter Lloyd began to make their
18 way out of the building, but Firefighter Lloyd
19 soon became disoriented, and at 01:46 hours put
20 out a Mayday that he was trapped in room 306.
21 Unbeknownst to Firefighter Lloyd, he was not the
22 only firefighter in need of assistance.
23 Firefighter Eric Cich had run out of air and was
24 down in the hallway. As crews entered the
25 building in search of the firefighters that were

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in distress, they found Firefighter Cich.

Firefighter Cich was successfully removed from the building to an awaiting ambulance that transported him to Westchester Medical Center. At that time, the fire conditions had once worsened, and all firefighters were ordered to remove themselves from the building, making it impossible for the crews to rescue Firefighter Lloyd.

On the morning of March 23, 2021, Firefighter Jared Lloyd volunteered his service for the welfare of the residents of the Evergreen Court Home for Adults, the staff members, and for the firefighters on the scene. He did for those as he would have expected us to do for him, which led to the ultimate sacrifice of his life for everyone.

We should all be aware that Firefighter Jared Lloyd's actions not only saved many of the residents and staff members that day, but he was also personally responsible for saving the life of his fellow firefighter and fellow friend, Eric Cich."

The Firefighters Association of the State

1
2 of New York is proud to posthumously recognize
3 Firefighter Jared Lloyd and present him with the
4 FASNY Firefighter of the Year Award for his
5 heroic actions that resulted in the saving of
6 multiple lives and is credited for saving one of
7 his friends and fellow firefighters.

8 (Standing ovation.)

9 MR. OUTHOUSE: President Farrell, I would
10 now ask you to step forward and present the
11 prestigious Medal of Valor to Mrs. Sabrail
12 Davenport.

13 (Whereupon, the Medal of Valor was
14 presented to Mrs. Sabrail Davenport by President
15 John Farrell.)

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. OUTHOUSE: Vice President Tase, I'll
18 now ask you to present the Awards Bar.

19 (Whereupon, the Awards Bar was presented to
20 Mrs. Sabrail Davenport by Vice President Edward
21 Tase.)

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. OUTHOUSE: Vice President Perry, I'll
24 ask you to present the gifts on behalf of the
25 association.

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(Whereupon, a gift was presented to Mrs.

3

Sabrail Davenport by Vice President Perry.)

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(Applause.)

5

MR. OUTHOUSE: At this time, I would ask

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that Sabrail Davenport come to the podium to say

7

a few words.

8

MRS. DAVENPORT: Good morning, everyone.

9

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MRS. DAVENPORT: This will be brief. When

11

Mr. Outhouse asked me yesterday would I be able

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to speak, I told him no --

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(Laughter.)

14

MRS. DAVENPORT: (Continuing) -- but I

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couldn't -- my spirit was shining, and I couldn't

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sit there and not say anything, but thank you to

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FASNY for recognizing Jared for this posthumous

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award and just appreciating the fact that you

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guys recognize the impact that he made on that

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particular day. Not only will I look at this

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award as an honor for myself, my family, his dad,

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his aunt, the moms of my grand kids, my grandson,

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but we accept this award for everything, the

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support and for everything that you gave to us,

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and I truly appreciate everything you have done

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thus far.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. OUTHOUSE: I would now call upon Mr. Joseph Giorgio, the Vice President of the Volunteer Fire Insurance Services Company, aka VFIS, to present the association plaque to Mrs. Davenport and to the Spring Valley Fire Department.

(Whereupon, a plaque was presented to Mrs. Sabrail Davenport by Vice President of VFIS, Mr. Joseph Giorgio.)

MR. OUTHOUSE: I now call upon a Chief from the Spring Valley Fire Department to say a few words.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: How are you all this morning? For those who don't know, my name is Battalion Chief Marcos Padilla. I've had the honor and pleasure of working with Jared since the day he joined the department, and I was there that faithful night. On a personal note, and from the department, I would like to thank every single person in this room for their support over the past year and plus months. We will continue

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to do our jobs. We will continue to make you proud.

And that's basically all I have to say.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. OUTHOUSE: Thank you, Chief.

This year's Firefighter of the Year Awards Committee consists of the following members: Vice Chairman, Mr. Lawrence Hall, Jefferson County; Mr. Thomas Pasquel of Westchester County; our Secretary to the committee, Mr. Robert Sutton, of Suffolk County; Mr. James Darcy of Nassau County, Mr. Peter Holmes of Oneida County, Mr. William Murray of Suffolk County, Mr. Delbe Spath of Ulster County; and I'm Chairman, Robert Outhouse, of Westchester County.

Our committee liaison to the Board of Directors is Mr. Donald Farrell from Westchester County.

Once again, I would like to congratulate our winners. I would also add that both the EMS and Firefighter of the Year winners' names will be added to the boards and books at the Firemen's Home Museum.

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All those members and companies who were nominated for this year's awards will receive a Certificate of Merit Award from the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

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I would like to thank several people for their assistance in putting this program together today. The Color Guard of the Spring Valley Fire Department, the 2022 General Convention Team for their assistance in putting this program together, and the office staff at 107, Mr. Joseph Giorgio and the staff of VFIS for sponsoring our program this year.

14

Again, I thank you all.

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19

President Farrell, I would like to thank you for reappointing our entire committee for this past year. It has been a great pleasure working with you and all the members of both committees.

20

If I have missed someone, I do apologize.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. OUTHOUSE: The deadline for the submissions for next year's award is March 15, 2023.

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At this time, I would ask that all

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committee members and the escorts prepare to leave the convention hall. So could we gather and get our procession ready to go.

(Applause.)

MR. OUTHOUSE: President Farrell, this concludes the 2022 Firefighter of the Year Report.

MR. FARRELL: I would like to thank both the Firefighter of the Year and EMS Committees for such a wonderful program.

This concludes our morning session. We will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. and begin with our keynote speaker, Retired FDNY Captain Michael Dugan.

I will entertain a motion to recess the meeting until 2:00 p.m.

MR. CARON: Mike Caron makes that motion.

MR. FARRELL: Second?

MR. GUARINO: Frank Guarino.

MR. FARRELL: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

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Thank you.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: One more note, lunch
will be ready at 12:30.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned until
2:00 p.m.)

MR. FARRELL: Good afternoon.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good afternoon.

MR. FARRELL: The exits are located to your
right and left. If there is a need to evacuate
the ballroom, an announcement will be made from
the dais and instructions will be given. Please
evacuate the ballroom in an orderly fashion.

I would also ask that you please silence
your phones and pagers now. If you are going to
make a motion this afternoon, or a second, please
step to the microphone and clearly state your
name and your affiliation. Thank you.

At this time, it is my pleasure to
introduce our keynote speaker, retired FDNY
Captain Michael Dugan.

Chief is a 38 year veteran of the fire
service and a 26 year veteran of the New York
City Fire Department, retired serving as Captain
of Ladder Company 123 in Brooklyn. He was a

1
2 firefighter in Ladder Company 43, where he
3 received the James Gordon Bennett Medal in 1992
4 and the Harry M. Archer Medal in 1993, the FDNY's
5 highest award for bravery.

6 He was an instructor at the inception of
7 the FDNY's Annual Education Day and has developed
8 programs currently taught to all FDNY members
9 during the annual event. He is also a member of
10 the IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section. He
11 serves as a HOT instructor at Firehouse Expo and
12 FDIC and is a regular contributor to the fire
13 service magazines. He also lectures at various
14 events around the country on topics dealing with
15 truck company operations, building construction,
16 scene size-up, and today's fire service.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, Captain Michael
18 Dugan.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. DUGAN: Thank you, thank you. Today we
21 are going to talk about why we are here, why we
22 are here. What are you doing for the fire
23 service? Okay. What you are doing in the fire
24 service is more importantly what are you doing
25 for the fire service. What are you doing for us?

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2 How are you making us better? Most veteran
3 firefighters and fire officers heard the question
4 asked, why are we here, numerous times in many
5 different situations and in different contexts.
6 If we hear why are we here at a fire or an
7 emergency, we might be at a dangerous scene.
8 Okay. So we should start to think. Are we
9 someplace we shouldn't be? Okay. We are in
10 danger. Did we miss something on our size-up?
11 Okay. Other firefighters and units operating in
12 the building, do they know where we are? More
13 importantly, does command know where you are?
14 Okay. Do you have a way out of an emergency if
15 you need it? If you don't have an exit strategy
16 and good communications, you're going to have a
17 problem. Okay? We may be over our heads and
18 beyond the limits of our teams, and we have to
19 evaluate our current mission and our current
20 position, where we are. The number one mission
21 in the fire service is everyone goes home and we
22 go home safely. Okay? We are here to put out
23 the fire and to be safe, and I hope that's the
24 plan. If not, maybe there's something we have to
25 think about. Okay? Why you're here is also a

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2 question you hear on a nonsense run. Okay. 3:00
3 a.m. in the morning and a member asks us in
4 frustration, why are we here? Why are we here?

5 We, the people of the fire service, will
6 run in while others run out. We go where others
7 won't go, and we help the helpless. Okay?
8 Whenever and wherever, because that's what we do,
9 and by doing that, that's who we are. Okay? We
10 will assist civilians, any time. We'll change
11 your tire, replace your smoke detector battery,
12 and do EMS; and some of us even love that. I
13 don't know why --

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. DUGAN: But in all honesty, it is what
16 we are. It's why we are here, because we love
17 this stuff. Most of us, we're here why we're
18 here is because this is where we are here, why we
19 are firefighters. We are here to be of service.
20 We like helping people, and we love the idea of
21 service. We love serving our fellow man. Don't
22 get me wrong, we love going to fires and getting
23 the adrenaline rush during and after a fire. We
24 love beating the red devil and making the world
25 safe again. It's part of our nature. We make

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2 the world safe again. That's what we do. We
3 love it. The fire service is the only service I
4 know where people want to do more. I ask people
5 all the time, especially these young men and
6 women in the fire service, anybody want to go to
7 another fire? If they don't say yes, I say you
8 don't belong here. We want to go to another fire
9 and get better and be better and be what we do.
10 We want to do what we have to do here, and that's
11 part of how we get through all this.

12 If we were asked to assist someone after a
13 fire even though we were beat, dirty, in need of
14 a shower, smell to high heaven, would we help
15 them? Of course. Why? Because that's who we
16 are and why we are firefighters and fire officers
17 and fire chiefs. We want to make the world a
18 better place for us being here.

19 The other thing that we all love is the
20 firehouse. We love the firehouse because we're
21 grounded. If you think you know everything or
22 something special, walk into a firehouse kitchen,
23 and you'll be like how little you know in a
24 matter of seconds. It's a humbling experience.
25 The firehouse is the greatest thing in the world,

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2 but it is humbling. Fun and games at the
3 firehouse is great. I tell people all the time,
4 if you're not having fun at the firehouse, you're
5 doing something wrong. Now, that fun should
6 never hurt, should never endanger people, and
7 should never involve anything of any kind of a
8 sexual nature or anything like that, but people
9 having fun in the firehouse. Jokes, I have no
10 problem with. Hazing, I have a problem with, but
11 I remember being the young fireman, tied off the
12 side of a building, and they dumped the day's mop
13 water on me. That was the dirty bucket, and I'm
14 tied up on the rope, and they looked at me, and
15 then they hit me with five pounds of flour. And
16 they said, oh, what do you got to say? I took
17 off my helmet, and I said, you missed a spot.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. DUGAN: They held me down, and that was
20 it. It was over. Fun and games in the firehouse
21 is okay and having fun. Getting hit with a
22 bucket, okay. I get wet. It's not a big deal.
23 I am not the evil witch in the Wizard of OZ. I'm
24 not going to melt. I have gone to the firehouse,
25 and I have sat in my favorite EZ chair in a

1
2 kitchen of the firehouse and sat down and about a
3 minute later I'm like son of a gun, son of a gun.
4 They wet the cushion. I get up, and my butt is
5 soaking wet. Okay. Again, it's great. As one
6 person stated early in my career, the firehouse
7 is like high school without homework. I agree
8 with them. Of course, it's not true, but if
9 you're not having fun, enjoying each other's
10 company, you are doing something wrong. My
11 wife -- and I've been with my wife, it will be 43
12 years in September, we've been a couple -- she
13 gave me the Mickey Mantle, play me or trade me,
14 but --

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. DUGAN: (Continuing) -- we've been
17 married 36 years, and she says this all the time,
18 you're growing older, just not up. Okay? And I
19 love that, it's true. I still am. Okay. The
20 jokes, the fun still makes me laugh, even when
21 they get me. I am here because I love it. We
22 are still professionals and can be, but we should
23 have fun. We should enjoy what we are doing.
24 Okay? Sometimes you can hear the question why
25 are you here in the firehouse kitchen during a

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2 debate in the firehouse about something hot
3 topic, current politics, and politics in the
4 firehouse is a very interesting thing to a new
5 local business, the local news, so on, elections,
6 whatever else. Every firefighter and officer has
7 an opinion, and when some member of our team or
8 crew is pitching a bitch or a gripe about it
9 raining, about this, the brothers and sisters in
10 the kitchen listen until finally someone being
11 fed up says, why are you even here? And what
12 does that do to them? It's an automatic reset.
13 Wait, wait, I'm bitching about the thing that I
14 love, this firehouse; and I'm sitting in here,
15 and I'm making it not a fun place to be. Maybe
16 it's time I reset myself and think about these
17 things. That phrase brings the member back on
18 the rant to reality, and then they realize
19 they're complaining about what they love, what we
20 love. Okay?

21 After September 11, 2001, members of the
22 FDNY had signs made up, and they put it in the
23 front of every rig. It says, "still the greatest
24 job in the world." You can find a copy of that
25 on every rig in the FDNY and on every firehouse

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2 in the FDNY. We love our job, and we love
3 firefighting, because it appeals to our nature.
4 It's a sense of duty. Even after the murder --
5 and yes, they were murdered -- of 343 members of
6 the FDNY, 23 members of the NYPD, and 37 members
7 of the Port Authority, we still loved our jobs.
8 Today young men and women still want that job.
9 Why? Because it's what we are. It's our
10 personality and how we are. The sense of duty,
11 pride, tradition or values, who knows what drives
12 some of us, but we are all working towards the
13 same goal, the same common idea. We want to help
14 our fellow citizens and make a difference in the
15 world, while keeping our crew safe, while keeping
16 our brothers and sisters safe. This is what we
17 want to do. Okay.

18 So why are you here at the FASNY
19 Convention? What are you hoping to get out of
20 your experience? The convention for most of us
21 is a chance to learn from what others are doing
22 and how to get better at their job and what we do
23 in the fire service and how they are trying to be
24 safer and how they are trying to make sure we're
25 safe. What is working? What are we looking at?

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2 What is working for our department? What is
3 working or not working for our department? I
4 heard people talking about retention,
5 recruitment, all of these things. What are we
6 doing? What's new and happening throughout the
7 fire service? You hear this question being asked
8 throughout the convention. Each of you here is
9 here today because you are involved in the fire
10 service or want to learn, and hopefully teach
11 what you learn to members, other members, of the
12 fire service. Okay? If you learn something at
13 this convention, if you learn something here and
14 you do not pass it on to the members of your
15 department, shame on you. If you learn
16 something, you pass it on. It benefits the
17 entire fire service. If you learn something and
18 keep it to yourself, it benefits no one. It
19 benefits no one.

20 When you get home, you're duty bound to
21 pass on that knowledge, as we just said, you gain
22 from the convention. Your job is to go home and
23 share what you learned with those around you. If
24 you keep all the knowledge to yourself, no one
25 gets better, no one improves. Okay? But if you

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2 pass it on, we all benefit. Okay? It's not easy
3 to be a teacher, a mentor, especially if you're
4 young and new in the fire service, but it could
5 be done. One of you sitting here might be the
6 next John or Mike, John Norman, John Mittendorf,
7 John Salka, my heroes; Mike Ciampo, Mike Wilber,
8 Mike Gagliano, we are all waiting to hear your
9 thoughts and ideas and waiting to read your
10 opinions. Get involved. New members of the fire
11 service, get involved, publish your ideas, go out
12 there, go out on that limb, be part of the
13 change, because you are going to be what's going
14 to make the change. The fire service is
15 changing. That's a fact. Some of us, me, and
16 probably many in this room, started when bunker
17 gear was not around. We road the back step. How
18 many people remember getting dressed while
19 somebody else had their arms around you holding
20 you while you were putting on your gear? Right?
21 Okay? We wore three quarter boots, three quarter
22 coats, and rubber boots. Orange fire ball
23 gloves --

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. DUGAN: (Continuing) -- that melted

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2 when they got hot. That's brilliant, right?
3 Let's give gloves that melt to the firefighters,
4 and I'll guarantee you there are a couple of you
5 in this room besides me that still have the scars
6 on your wrists from the orange fire ball gloves.
7 So it's changing. Some people want to go back to
8 those days. They long for the old days, wooden
9 ladders, iron men. Females were not allowed in
10 the fire service. It's garbage, okay? SCBAs
11 were not used. We went to fires every night.
12 Some people want to go back to that. I remember
13 being a young fireman and being yelled at for
14 bringing my SCBA to an oil burner fire. Kid,
15 we're not wimps here. We don't wear those things
16 for oil burners. What's an oil burner starving?
17 Unfortunately, most of the guys that yelled at me
18 are dead, and they died a horrible death of
19 cancer. Those days are gone. Those days are
20 gone. Okay? We better be ready for the fires of
21 today, because the fires have changed over the
22 years due to the materials that are burning in
23 today's fire buildings. Okay?

24 I grew up, large Irish Catholic family, our
25 living room -- all our couches had what,

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horsehair? Sytsel (phonetic), they were leather, wool, or cotton. They were natural fibers. Today, my den today has more fuel loaded than a gas station.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: I've done the research. It's true. Between my overstuffed -- my La-Z-Boy chair -- very honestly, I love my La-Z-Boy chair -- and let me tell you something, I don't know where my wife puts that injector, but when I grab that handle and pull it back, it hits me with a doze of Sominex that puts me to sleep.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: And she's got hers right next to me, and she's snoring right along with me.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: There's nothing wrong with that, but what used to take up to 30 minutes now takes as little as 120 seconds for the room to totally evolve. Okay? It's not that the fires have gotten hotter, it's just they reach their peek so much quicker. Okay? These changes are making firefighting more dangerous, because if water is not applied quickly, then firefighters

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2 and officers who were in the fire building will
3 be in danger, will be in danger. Okay? Not
4 using an SCBA is going to get you hurt or killed.
5 Each of us should make a commitment to our own
6 safety, and when we leave this fire service be
7 able to live a long and healthy life. Think of
8 your family. I have a joke with my brothers from
9 the New York City Fire Department, and I can't do
10 the finger stuff, but the idea is Star Trek. I
11 call them the Star Trek retirement, when you
12 decide to hang up your gear, you have to live
13 long and prosper. Okay? If you get cancer, it's
14 not a good thing. It will not be fun. Think
15 about your family as you go through these things.
16 Okay?

17 So why are we here? We're here to make a
18 difference, and hopefully better the fire
19 service. Okay? The one problem we have is that
20 there is a move to mold the fire service into a
21 business plan and business format in some
22 circles. People think this approach will make us
23 better and more efficient. People who make
24 decisions about the fire service are not the ones
25 fighting the fire. They have never crawled down

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2 a hot, dark hallway. They don't know what hot
3 means. Okay? This is the business model. It is
4 going to destroy the fire service. Okay? Things
5 that are being done based on people making the
6 equipment, not the one wearing it. If you and I,
7 the people who care about the fire service, allow
8 that to happen it is going to make firefighting
9 just a job or a task; and that will be a crime.
10 It will be a huge crime, because what we do is so
11 important to this world, it's not a job.
12 Firefighting is not a job, it's a calling. It's
13 a vocation. We love it. My dad used to say that
14 if your vocation, what you believe in and your
15 advocacy, what you stand up for, are one in the
16 same, you will never work a day in your life.
17 Okay. If you love what you do and you're
18 passionate about it and you love being in the
19 fire service, you'll have a good life. We love
20 it. We have passion and pride in what we do in
21 the fire service. We use the words like duty,
22 pride, tradition. We learned from people who
23 went before us, and we use these words to define
24 our job, our duties; and therefore, ourselves.
25 And therefore, ourselves. Okay? We have honor.

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We believe that we can and do make changes in the fire service; and by doing that, we change the world. Okay? If we change the world and make a difference, you are truly doing God's work. You are truly doing God's work. Okay?

We, the few, who truly lead, teach, mentor believe that we honor those that came before us by upholding the love and respect of the fire service and what we do and where we came from.

The cost of being here -- we talk about why we're here -- the cost of being here. Cancer is the big one. Cancer. I didn't even put heart attacks up there. Okay? I could have put heart attacks up there, but I'm going in a little bit of a different direction now. First off, wear your gear. Wear your gear. If you see anybody not wearing their gear, talk to them. Wear your gear. Wear it properly. Wear it all the time. Okay?

The costs of being here. Things that can happen as a result of the fire service. PTSD and stress. I'm going to tell my story about it, because I think that we, in the fire service, are not talking enough about getting help for our

1
2 young men and women. Two weeks ago a guy who
3 worked for me, was one of my firemen, got
4 promoted to Lieutenant, died by suicide.
5 Horrible. Horrible. We have to talk about these
6 things. We have to talk about these things. So
7 I'm going to tell you my story. I started out as
8 a good Irish, Catholic kid. I am the oldest boy.
9 I have three sisters, an older sister and two
10 younger sisters; and my two younger brothers were
11 the best. We still are great friends. My family
12 has a tradition that I love to tell everybody.
13 Anybody in my family turns 60, the other five
14 have to show up to you for a meal. Anybody in my
15 family that turns 70, you can pick anyplace in
16 the world you want to go. If it's in the
17 continental United States, the other five have to
18 show up for you. If you pick outside the United
19 States of America, the other five have the
20 opportunity. They don't have to go, but we still
21 do this every time. We did it last November for
22 my younger brother, not my youngest, my younger
23 brother, DR, Donald Richard, Jr., DR., is an
24 Annapolis graduate, and very, very wealthy young
25 man -- because he's younger than me --

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(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: First time since 1973 all six of us slept under the same roof. That's how big this house was. We all had our own bedroom. It's crazy, crazy, but this is how I grew up. This is a great thing. I played football, and I was in the Junior Naval Reserve. I did everything. I did the typical kid growing up. Lessons learned. That's my dad. He's a B26 pilot, bombers; 65 missions over hostile territory. He came back, started a family with my mom. He was older than my mom by nine years. My dad's joke was, he was bombing Germany, she was bombing history in the seventh grade.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: Yup, yup. The early years of my life, my dad came back from the war and went to work for the American Tobacco Company -- I know it's hard to see, because it's an old Polaroid -- but it's my sisters, my two sisters, and my cousin wearing a shirt that says, "Us Tareyton smokers would rather fight than switch."

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: And they had candy cigarettes,

1
2 because my dad worked for the American Tobacco
3 Company in cigarette advertisement. Okay? He
4 came back from the war, there was no help, there
5 was no PTSD, there was no therapy, so what do
6 they do? They self-medicated. They drank.
7 Okay? The world as we learned it as kids growing
8 up. Okay? And that's just what it was, during
9 the firefighting as young kids. My grandparents
10 house burned down. The ride, the ride and the
11 story about a fire in Halesite, New York where I
12 was a volunteer in 1967. Sunday morning the
13 phone rings at my parents' house. Back then
14 there were three phones in the entire house. One
15 on the kitchen wall, one in the den, and one in
16 my parents' bedroom. That was it. The phone
17 rings -- and it never rang at 6:45 on a Sunday
18 morning. I hear my father on the phone go,
19 hello, okay, all right, all right, okay. Did you
20 call the fire department? Okay, I'm on my way;
21 and he looks at me, and he says, your grandma's
22 house is on fire, I got to go. And I looked at
23 my ole man, I was 12, and we were up making the
24 breakfast, but church came first, 7:45 mass at
25 St. Patrick's, and you couldn't eat back then

1
2 before you received communion, so you waited. We
3 were cooking the bacon. We were doing all this
4 stuff, and my ole man said, I got to go. Your
5 grandmother's house is on fire; and then the
6 local fire whistle goes off. And I looked at my
7 dad, and I said, I'm coming with you; and he
8 said, no, you're not. And I said, but I'm coming
9 with you; and he said, no, you're not. I said,
10 but grandma lives at the end of the road, there
11 are four driveways. How are they going to know
12 what driveway to get in? First time I ever heard
13 my father say a bad word. He said, shit, you're
14 right. Get in the car.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. DUGAN: I got in a Buick station wagon
17 with a metal dashboard. There were no seatbelts;
18 and we were on four wheels for about 25 --

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. DUGAN: Laying rubber at the end of
21 this road as we skidded in, threw me out, I
22 directed the firemen in at the end of the
23 driveway, and I got to see the guys in the
24 Halesite Fire Department get my grandmother and
25 my maiden aunt, my Aunt Helen, who's fiancé was

1
2 killed on D Day, and she never married, I got to
3 see my grandmother and my Aunt Helen come out a
4 second story bedroom window on a portable ladder;
5 and then, they let me hack hose, and they gave me
6 hot chocolate and jelly donuts --

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. DUGAN: The day I turned 18, I joined
9 the Halesite Volunteer Fire Department. I joined
10 the Halesite Volunteer Fire Department. I'm
11 doing this, I'm loving every minute of it. I'm
12 having a great time. Okay. There I am -- and
13 back in the day, when I was young, bright red
14 beard, bright red beard, okay. When I used to
15 ride a motorcycle, I wore a biking helmet. I was
16 a little bit of an idiot, and you wear beards
17 back then. Nobody said anything about not
18 wearing beards or anything else; and I loved
19 every minute of being a volunteer firefighter.
20 Then I was working, moving machinery and doing a
21 lot of things, and the economy crashed in the
22 late 70's, and now I'm not working. So I was on
23 the list for the NYPD, and I took the job. I
24 became a New York City Police Officer. The love
25 of my life, my wife, Missy, my mom -- I'm a New

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York City Police Officer. I'm the Valedictorian, graduated first in my class. She still looks at me like this. I don't know why.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: I don't why. Of all the things I gave to her, she still looks at me like this, but it's amazing. Then I get called for the fire department, and I happened to be a Valedictorian of the fire department class also. So my friends ride me like a rented mule. Next he's going sanitation.

(Laughter.)

MR. DUGAN: But I found what I loved. I found what I loved. I found everything I wanted. We got married -- and like I said, she gave me the deal -- plenty of drinking, and man, I was having it good, so I was -- and of course, first comes the dog, and then comes the kids. I'm working in the fire department, I'm working with great guys. My first mentor next my dad, Captain Danny Marshall, one of my heroes, one of my mentors. On that picture, three of those guys are gone. He died in a plane crash. These two died of cancer. Horrible. When I talk about

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wearing your gear, wear your gear. Okay? Two of those guys are also gone. Wear your gear. Okay?

I love being a fireman. I love being a fireman. I'll stand there, I had a big, big burly mustache back then; and it was bright red. It was bright red. It was a lot of fun. Okay.

Stress in the fire service. Okay? Fires with fatalities. Children involved. Okay? Children involved. Rescues that did not succeed. Car accidents with multiple fatalities. Going out on the road and going to a car accident and your wife, your son, your daughter, your grand kids aren't home yet, and the car is of a similar make and model. What happens? That's stress. I make my rescue. It was a great rescue. I went off the roof of a building when I won the James Gordon Medal. I went off the roof of a building seven stories, in the back of a building on a rope on an ambulance, a whole big to do, but it was December 23rd, and two children died, two little kids; and I got all done, and I was beat up, my back was sore. The guy jumped at me, and I caught him. I was all beat up, and I was sitting in the ambulance, and here comes this

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2 dad. And again, I'll never forget it, here comes
3 this dad, he is burnt up bad, because he made a
4 push to try to get his two kids with no gear,
5 with nothing, and he got burnt. I will remember
6 that fire forever. I got out of the ambulance,
7 and I looked at the medic, and I said, take him.
8 And he goes, no, no, no, you're in uniform. You
9 get priority. No way. I didn't quite say it
10 like that, but they're recording me, so I won't
11 say it --

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. DUGAN: But I said take him, take him.

14 Stress in the fire service. Post traumatic
15 stress disorder. A disorder in which a person
16 has difficulty recovering from an experience or
17 witnessing a terrifying event. It happens
18 frequently. The condition may last months or
19 years with triggers that can bring back memories
20 of trauma, accompanied by intense emotional and
21 physical reactions. I know from Ground Zero,
22 9/11. Smells will bring me back there in a
23 heartbeat. Will bring me back there in a
24 heartbeat.

25 Symptoms may include nightmares, unwanted

1
2 memories of trauma, avoidance of situations that
3 bring back memories of the trauma, heightened
4 reactions, anxiety, or depressed mood. I was on
5 a cruise the other day with all my old retired
6 firefighters, and I had the privilege of driving
7 one of my mentors -- and I'll show you a picture
8 of him in a little bit -- Chief DiBernardo.
9 Chief DiBernardo was a Vietnam veteran tunnel
10 rat, and one of the best chiefs I ever worked
11 for; and he's telling me on the ride that he
12 still has nightmares about the Vietcong coming
13 through the window. Still. Okay? And he's
14 almost 80, and he still has nightmares. Okay?
15 It happens.

16 Treatments include different types of
17 posttraumatic focused psychotherapy, as well as
18 medications to manage symptoms. Okay?

19 A diagnosis of PTSD requires a discussion
20 with trained professionals. If something goes on
21 in your firehouse, there's a run, there's
22 something else, get people in there. Get people
23 in there to talk to your people. Okay?

24 Symptoms of PTSD generally fall into a
25 couple of these broad categories.

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Re-experiencing the types of symptoms, such as recurring, involuntary, or intrusive distressing memories, which can include flashbacks of the trauma, bad dreams, or intrusive thoughts.

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Avoidance -- which is just what it sounds like -- staying away from certain places, objects that remind us of the traumatic event. Okay.

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Not going and doing certain things.

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Cognitive and mood symptoms, which include trouble recalling events, negative thoughts about one's self. A person may also feel numb, guilty, worried, depressed, and have difficulty remembering traumatic events. Cognitive symptoms can also, in some instances, extend to out of body experiences or feeling that the world is not a real place. Okay.

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Any arousal symptoms, being hypervigilant. Okay. Startled by sounds, trouble sleeping, outbursts of anger.

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These are some of the things. This is my story about this.

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One week of hell, seven dead in that fire. That building right there is John Burke Plaza, 1987. February, I think, 1987. Fire on the 34th

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2 and 35th floors. We walked up. A 12 year old
3 girl and her two brothers jumped out the 34th
4 floor window. Their mother, we found her, on the
5 34th floor. She forced her three children to
6 jump from 34 floors. There is no good way that's
7 going to end. Seven dead in that fire. We had
8 two others die during that 24 hours. The next
9 tour I worked, I had five more people die, five
10 more people die. So I had 14 dead in two tours.
11 Guys in the firehouse, what do you think they
12 did? They painted skulls and crossbones on the
13 back of my helmet. They called me Doctor Death.
14 They took whiteout -- and anybody who is old in
15 the fire service remembers the old whiteout
16 pens -- they painted skulls and crossbones.
17 Doctor Death. The first time I needed help.
18 That's the Schomburg Plaza. There was no help.
19 There was no help. There was nothing. So what
20 do you do? Take risks. Take more risks. I'm
21 going through it. I'm going to do more, take
22 more risks. Self medicate, drink, drink more,
23 work more, withdraw. Okay. I was lucky I had my
24 wife there, she worked with me. She kidnapped me
25 a couple of times to take me places, to get me

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2 away from it. She really helped a lot for me to
3 get through this. That's medal day. My wife,
4 Missy, again; my oldest daughter, Mayor Dinkins,
5 my mom and dad, when I got my medal. It was
6 unbelievable. It was the greatest day in the
7 world. Okay. Then I was promoted to Lieutenant,
8 and the next year I got another medal, and I got
9 all kinds of awards and everything else. It was
10 great. That's Chief DiBernardo, Joey D, Sr., one
11 of my heroes. I love this picture, it's one of
12 my cherished pictures. I became a Lieutenant, 42
13 Truck in South Bronx. La Casa Della Fonte, the
14 House of Elephants. The engine was known as La
15 Casa Caba, and I won't tell you what that means,
16 but I think you can all figure it out.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. DUGAN: But the reason it was called
19 that is because the firehouse had two toilets and
20 12 men working there. It wasn't a pretty sight.
21 It wasn't a pretty sight.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. DUGAN: So work up as Lieutenant,
24 second child arrives, 2/9/1995. The love of my
25 life right there in the hospital after having a

1
2 baby, after having a baby. I am like holy
3 mackerel. Stress continues to build. Stress is
4 cumulative. My wife was given last rites three
5 times. I'm called back on Valentine's Day and
6 told to say goodbye, she will not make it through
7 the night. I got a newborn and a two year old,
8 and I'm sitting there going holy crap. Now I'm
9 going to get a little emotional -- I'm sorry --
10 because I said goodbye to my wife, and I told her
11 I had it. Hardest thing I ever did, but she will
12 tell everybody to this day she's laying there in
13 a drug induced coma, and I'm saying, it's okay.
14 It's okay. You can go, I got it; and she goes,
15 all I wanted to do was squeeze your hand; and I
16 tried with every ounce of strength I had, and I
17 couldn't, and she goes, I had to go to sleep; and
18 I said, I'll do it again tomorrow. I'll do it
19 tomorrow. So she was in the hospital for 21
20 days, came home. She had a stroke, she had kind
21 of a heart attack, she had a seizure; and they
22 opened her up when she had the baby and ligated
23 the arteries through her uterus. The opened her
24 up from her bellybutton to her pubis to ligate
25 the arteries to her uterus. She went through

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2 more stuff. I mean talk about somebody who is
3 amazing, that's my wife, Missy. The FDNY -- you
4 don't know about the fire service until something
5 goes wrong. The FDNY was absolutely, positively,
6 amazing. I had to call a local food pantry to
7 get rid of some of the food, because I didn't
8 want to throw out that much food. I didn't have
9 refrigerator space. My neighbors didn't have
10 refrigerator space. There were people in
11 there -- for those of you who are younger, you
12 won't remember, those of us who are older
13 remember the old answering machines with one hour
14 cassette deck. It didn't work anymore because
15 there was an hour of messages from the people in
16 the FDNY. My division commander showed up at my
17 house -- my daughter was born on May 9th --
18 showed up at my house right before Easter. It
19 was an early Easter that year so in early April.
20 He showed up at my house with Easter baskets for
21 my daughters. I was like, you have got to be
22 kidding me. It was amazing. It was amazing.
23 The fire department was the best thing that ever
24 happened to me there. I didn't go to work for 70
25 days. I did not go to work for 70 days. When I

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went back to work, they said, what do you want to do? And I said, I'd like to work 24 hour tours if I can, just so I get her coverage for 24 to go back home for 48. You got it. We'll do whatever you got to do. It was amazing what they did for me. It was so great.

So stress continues to build, and stress is cumulative. I got my two girls. That was called silly hat night. I loved every minute of it. I loved every part of it.

I get promoted July 1st of 2000, before 9/11. Standing next to my good friend Louie Modafferi. Louie was murdered on 9/11. There's my two girls, Sarah and Emily. The loves of my life. I get promoted to Captain. I'm teaching around the country. I am having a great time being an instructor on teaching at FDIC. I'm teaching in Wichita. I'm all over the country teaching and having a great time doing it.

September 10, 2001 -- September 10, 2001 was that firehouse. Ladder 42, engine 73. Firehouses were built in different years right next to each other. They used to call it the hole in the wall. Father Michael Judge, one of

1
2 my heroes. If you have not seen his sermon that
3 day, Google it on You Tube. Father Judge on
4 September 10th talking about, you put one foot in
5 front of the other. You don't know when God is
6 going to call you. It is the most holy thing I
7 have ever seen in my life; and I think he knew
8 something was going to happen. I honestly think
9 he had a premonition from God; and he gave this
10 sermon. I was there for the sermon. I was there
11 at the party. Eleven men who were at that party
12 did not see sunset the next day, 11 men. So
13 Father Judge -- right there, no matter how big
14 the call, no matter how small, you have no idea
15 what God is calling you to do, but he needs you.
16 He needs me. He needs all of us. It is amazing,
17 an amazing speech. If I had more time I would
18 show it to you, but I don't. So I don't want to
19 get into that, but look it up. It is an amazing
20 thing.

21 My story on September 11th. I was working.
22 I got the day off the day before, because I was
23 supposed to be in the firehouse, but I wanted to
24 go to that party, so I got the day off, and I had
25 to work at the fire academy teaching. So I was

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2 at the fire academy teaching, and somebody came
3 in and said, a plane just hit the Trade Center;
4 and I'm thinking of the Cory Liddles and a small
5 plane. What was some idiot doing in a piper cub
6 flying around; and we go into the Chief of
7 Training's office, and there was only one TV in
8 the whole fire academy at the time that was
9 connected to the outside, and that was in the
10 Chief of Training's office; and we saw the second
11 plane hit, and we knew what was going on. That's
12 beyond ladder, and the guy holding the flag is a
13 guy by the name of Christian Engledrum. Chris
14 Engledrum was KIA in Fallujah. He was our first
15 killed in action active New York City fireman
16 since the Second World War. We didn't lose
17 anybody in Korea, and we didn't lose anybody in
18 Vietnam, because we drafted most of them. Since
19 then, we've lost three more.

20 Now, I will tell you, because I like to
21 joke about this all the time, there is a
22 perception on everything you do, and people look.
23 There is a paradigm of you, what you do. That
24 picture went viral. It ended up in the Daily
25 News the next day. It ended up on the US News

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and World Report on Readers Digest, but my dad,

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the World War Two bomber pilot saw it; and what

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do you think the first thing he said was?

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AUDIENCE MEMBER: They hung it backwards.

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MR. DUGAN: Exactly, but he didn't quite

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say it that nicely. He called it a couple of

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names.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. DUGAN: I said, but it's not hung on

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backwards, Pop. He goes, what do you mean? I

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said, it's pointing north; and he goes, oh. I

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said, we can't point south, it's always pointing

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north. And he said, oh. I said, the

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photographer came around the other side to take

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the picture. Then he said the photographer was

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this, that, and the other thing.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. DUGAN: And I gladly took that. I

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gladly took that, but there is a perception. The

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flag was blown off the courtyard between the two

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buildings. Right there. That's where the flag

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came from, and we found it on the ground. Right

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in there is where that flag came from. We put

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that flag up.

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2 So that's Seven World Trade Center in the
3 background. That's Seven right there, it's going
4 to come down in a little bit. I still, to this
5 day, don't know what time that picture was taken.
6 I asked the photographer, do you know what time?
7 Do you have a timestamp on it? No. The camera
8 didn't have a timestamp on it at that point. So
9 I still don't know what time that picture was
10 taken.

11 Three hundred and forty three. I was
12 friends with and work accomplices with over a
13 hundred guys that we lost. I knew over a hundred
14 guys from my time in the FDNY. Over a hundred
15 guys. One day I had four funerals the same day
16 of men that I had worked with, four funerals; and
17 again, my wife, God Bless her, she came through
18 like a champ. I said, I don't know what to do.
19 I don't know how to figure this out. She goes,
20 whose family needs you the most? That's where
21 you belong. Thank you, honey. You figured it
22 right out what would take me days to figure out
23 you figured out in 30 seconds. Thank you.

24 Stress continues to build, because I'm
25 pissed off at the world now. I'm working, I'm

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going to funerals, and I'm drinking a lot. My wife said to me at one point during all of this, do you think when you get up to get a beer you could only get one instead of coming back with two so you don't have to get up as much?

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(Laughter.)

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MR. DUGAN: And I'm like, no, I'm drinking two. I'm drinking two at a time. They're going down like water, and I am angry. I am pissed off at the world. I am pissed off at the world; and I am drinking a lot. Like I said, I'm working, going to funerals, and I am pissed off at everybody. One day I'm at home, and this little one, who my wife calls a pretty version of me. She's just like you. She's stubborn and pigheaded. She walks up to me and looks at me the says, daddy, why are you always mad? Oh, that punch hurt harder than I've ever -- and I was -- my wife looked at me and said, the girls are scared of you. Your daughters are scared of you. So I said, oh, my God, I've got to do something.

So PTSD is directly connected to our evolutionary survival instincts, which has

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2 allowed us to identify threats and be prepared to
3 fight or run away. Fight or flight. Once an
4 alarm goes off, a potent cocktail of hormones
5 rushes our system getting us ready to survive.
6 Most people will metabolize this cocktail of
7 hormones within 12 to 30 hours and go about their
8 lives. Everyone has a threshold, and it's an
9 individual threshold about how much your body can
10 experience of the fight or flight cocktail
11 without a problem. The threshold is different
12 for each one of us. Okay? Once an individual
13 passes their particular threshold, their body
14 begins to rewire their nervous system to prepare
15 for a higher frequency of threats the body now
16 concedes as likely to occur. The body believes
17 what it's doing best to keep you alive, because
18 your body has one job, and that's to keep you
19 alive. Unfortunately, this highly active threat
20 perception system is now active whether the
21 individual is in a threatening situation or not,
22 or not. Okay? Unfortunately, the average person
23 may experience four of these traumatic events in
24 their lifetime. The average first responder,
25 over 200. Over 200. Okay? Time does not heal

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2 PTSD. Your brain literally rewired the nervous
3 system, and one could argue that time makes
4 untreated PTSD even worse for our people. Even
5 the most strong willed traumatic survivors are
6 not able to will their way through and from PTSD.
7 That's why it's particularly important to seek
8 help; and if you are in charge, to get help for
9 your people. Okay? Good news, there are
10 treatment options that exist to allow individuals
11 to bring their nervous system back into balance
12 where they won't feel this way forever. Okay? I
13 need help this time, I get help. It's a much
14 different response.

15 My boyfriend. My wife calls my therapist
16 my boyfriend, which was fine with me. I met my
17 therapist -- Now I will tell you this, and I tell
18 this to everyone; and you can quote me, you can
19 contact me about this, I went through three
20 therapists. The first one was a young lady who
21 was my niece's age. She was just out of college,
22 and I looked at her, and I said, I'm sorry. I
23 can't talk to you. There is no way you and I --
24 I can't. I just can't.

25 The second one was an older woman, and

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again, I apologized, because this is just me, but

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she had a very squeaky voice --

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(Laughter.)

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MR. DUGAN: (Continuing) -- like

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fingernails on a chalkboard -- and I said, I'm

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sorry, this is not going to work. My third

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therapist was a retired New York City Police

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Officer who had worked in the same neighborhoods

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I had worked in. We chewed the same dirt. He

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had been shot once and stabbed twice. We hit it

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off. We connected. There is hope. Go out. My

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wife just called him my boyfriend. She used to

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say, hey, you're getting a little cranky, when

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are you going to see your boyfriend?

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(Laughter.)

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MR. DUGAN: I said, I'm going this week.

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Oh, good. Okay. Excellent. It helped me

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tremendously. You need help, you get help. We

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have to take the stigma out of this in the fire

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service. We have to take the stigma out.

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Post traumatic stress, significant events,

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normal stresses in your life and triggers, things

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that bring you back there; training,

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conditioning, and environment. Okay? They can

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bring on the stress, but what happens?

Post traumatic growth, when you treat the stress. Significant events, normal stress, triggers, training, they allow you to grow, to get better, to do better at this.

Post traumatic growth. New opportunities or possibilities in life. You look at it with a new sense of hope.

Increased sense of personal strength. I am still emotional. I'm Irish, and I wear my heart on my sleeve. I couldn't lie to my wife for love or money, she would read me like a two page novel. That's okay, but increase personal strength.

Change in relationships. My wife and I, our relationship gets better every day. After 42 years, it still gets better. Now she does like her alone time. When I say do you want to come with me? No, I'll stay on my own. You go. I'll be laying in bed at night, turn the TV on, watch my shows, whatever. Okay.

Deepening sense of spiritual life and mindfulness. You get better, keep living your life, at being a part of this. Okay?

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Affliction produces endurance and endurance produces a proven character, and a proven character produces hope, and hope is not put to shame. That's from a letter by Paul to the Corinthians. Misery and seeing bad things helps us care more deeply and be more empathic and be better at what we do. Okay.

My life now, my daughter, Sarah, is an English teacher, working in Brooklyn, living in Brooklyn, it's great. Here we are at the -- Memorial in Rockville County. My daughter, Emily, graduated from school as a social worker, because she saw everything that I was going through, she is now a social worker working with kids. There she is, and she worked with a group, because she was a sorority called Tribelts, and they sponsor at St. Jude's hospital. They sponsor a house there, and she was working with an organization called -- it's the hat company, come on, I've got a couple of hats. Anyway, every hat they sell they make one for kids with cancer; and this was during the Freddie Gray riots in Baltimore, and she looked at her friend, Lauren, and said, we're walking by the

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2

servicemen, if I don't take a picture with these

3

servicemen, my dad is going to be pissed. Okay.

4

Good girl.

5

(Laughter.)

6

MR. DUGAN: Life becomes better. Okay?

7

Firefighters and fire officers. Find

8

someone to talk to. Bring people into the

9

firehouse to speak with the members. Father

10

Judge, one of my heroes, came into my firehouse

11

quite a few times. I loved sitting down for a

12

cup of coffee with him. Open line communication

13

and open doors are essential. Find the right

14

person and don't give up. Keep trying. Keep

15

working at this.

16

There are all kinds of resources out there.

17

There is help number for PTSD. I like this one,

18

Responderstrong for police and firefighters.

19

It's a great one. If you need to take a picture

20

of it, please do. I don't care, because they're

21

out there. There are a ton of different things

22

out there for firefighters, but I do like

23

Responderstrong.org to help us get through this,

24

help your people get through this. Okay?

25

If anybody didn't get it, you can grab a

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business card, and I'll email you a copy of the slide.

Now, I always talk about my journey; and I always open this up to people through the last couple of minutes. Any questions for me about this, because very honestly, this is my journey, and I will tell you all, feel free to use my name and tell your people that I needed help; and I am not a wimp. I am not a coward, but I needed help.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. VOCE: I'm going to help you.

MR. DUGAN: Okay.

MR. VOCE: My name is Frank Voce, and my son, Frank, has an organization, non-for-profit. It's called Reps for Responders. I'm going to write it down, Reps for Responders. We deal with all first responders, military, and so forth, in mental health. We now have -- through Rockland County. We work with the county and health department. You can reach out to us any time you're hurting. The reason he started this, he started as an NYPD -- Rockland County. He figured he had the joy of his life. You can only

1
2 sit at the Palisades Mall for so long and read
3 books all day before he got a call. That wasn't
4 him. He turned to drinking. At one point it was
5 almost to the head. He was going to take himself
6 down. He went up to a place called -- in
7 Connecticut. I followed afterwards. The best
8 thing I ever did. Reps for Responders. Check it
9 out. It's on the website. It's in Rockland
10 County. Very proud of him. We do Zooms on
11 Wednesday nights and Sunday nights for all first
12 responders and military. We are fully organized.
13 We have nutritionists, lawyers, so forth. I
14 don't want to take up your time --

15 MR. DUGAN: No, good, listen --

16 MR. VOCE: This is big situation today.

17 MR. DUGAN: Absolutely.

18 MR. VOCE: This is a big situation we got.
19 Each day we hear about another officer downtown
20 or FDNY. We shouldn't be doing that. Reach out
21 for help. I can talk to your afterwards.

22 MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

23 MR. VOCE: Thank you very much for being a
24 part of that.

25 MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

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(Applause.)

MR. DUGAN: Anyone else?

(No response.)

MR. DUGAN: No?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Mike, how do you feel? I can relate to your scenario. I was in the fire department. I was EMS for 35 years. I was down at 9/11 for almost three months. I know how it's affected me and how I have gotten better, because of therapy. It took me four therapists before I found the right one, and I still get choked up now; and I know how I feel as I get closer to that day. I get withdrawn, not as much as I used to; and I used to get agitated and angry. Not as much as I used to. I still do. So my question to you is, since we are one month and one day away, how do you feel?

MR. DUGAN: You know what, I feel pretty good. Now here's what I do -- and again, the love of my life, my wife, Missy, we are leaving on September 12th. I will be around for a ceremony on September 11th. My good friend, Paul Haglin, his brother, Danny, who I grew up with, I was born December of '55, Sammy -- His real name

1
2 is Danny -- but it's a whole long story -- but I
3 called him Sammy, Sammy and I -- He was born in
4 September. We grew up together in the volunteer
5 fire service. We both went on the city. Sammy
6 passed away from 9/11 related cancer. I always
7 go to something with Paul. We go to his
8 brother's grave site. We have a beer for Sam. I
9 do not drink very much anymore. I try not to
10 drink, but on September 11th, I will have a sip
11 of beer for them, for the brothers and sisters,
12 and then I go away; and then I live my best life.
13 I understand the day sucks, and I don't like it,
14 but I get better at it, and I have also done
15 things to honor their memories. If you come up
16 later, I'll show you, I have a challenge coin.
17 Last year for the 20th anniversary I did a thing
18 for the military at Goodfellow in Texas, in St.
19 Angelo, Texas. I talked to all the military
20 firefighters, and they made me this challenge
21 coin, shape of the Pentagon, a picture of me
22 raising the flag on 9/11. They made it for me;
23 and I was so happy to be down there with those
24 young men and women. Fire service is in a great
25 position with the young military men and women

1
2 coming up through there. So I was very honored
3 to be down there and speak about the legacy. I
4 spoke about some of my heroes from that day, and
5 that's a whole other presentation I would talk
6 about with the guys I worked with. If you've
7 never heard the name Ray Murphy, look up Ray
8 Murphy. Ray Murphy survived the first collapse.
9 He was with me at that party. He dusted himself
10 off and walked with another guy back to the other
11 building and was killed in the second collapse.
12 That is courage, my friends. That is courage.
13 Pete Bielfeld had made a rescue a week before and
14 was at the medical office and saw what was going
15 on and went to the local firehouse 10-10 and got
16 a set of gear, left his keys, and a note, knowing
17 what he was going into. My name is Pete
18 Bielfeld, Ladder 42 -- and you can look it up
19 online -- tell my wife and my kids I'm sorry.
20 Tell my family I love them, but I have to do what
21 I have to do. He grabbed a set of gear. We
22 didn't know he was missing for three days,
23 because his wife didn't hear from him. Then she
24 called and said where was he, the medical office.
25 It took them the fourth day, and they found his

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stuff in that locker.

So I always honor their memory by doing something on that day. I like to go out and donate a pint of blood on September 11th to do good. I do try to do something good at that time of year.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. WILLIS: Michael, I thank you for sharing your story. It takes a lot of bravery to stand up there. For those that don't know me, my name is Dave Willis. I come from Maryland, so I'm not even from New York, but I probably haven't missed a FASNY convention since probably about 2011 when I was President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association -- talked me into coming up, and I've probably been to almost every convention since then, but your story is real, your story is true. I've taken it all on a personal crusade of mine to take it to the boots on the ground across the state of Maryland, because PTSD is real, mental wellness is real, and every one of our firefighters and EMS personnel needs to understand that our job is just mentally demanding as it is just physically

1
2 demanding; and we have to be both physically and
3 healthy and mentally healthy. My real passion
4 and my real crusade has come is now it's time to
5 convince the people that living in the brick
6 houses, our state houses and our congress. It
7 took us a long time to get them to recognize
8 cancer as an occupational disease. Now we need
9 to get them to recognize PTSD as an occupational
10 disease too, because too often people come down
11 with it, and they say, retire. If you can't do
12 the job, retire, or quit, or do something like
13 that. No, it's an occupational disease. It's an
14 occupational illness, and we're going to beat the
15 doors down at our state houses. We're going to
16 beat the doors down in congress, and get them to
17 realize it. There's a lot of work going now with
18 the Heroes Act in congress. The House has passed
19 it. It's in the laps of the Senate right now,
20 and we've got to push that through, and we've got
21 to get them to recognize that it is an
22 occupational illness, and they've got to put the
23 resources behind to help us.

24 MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1

2

MR. LAPINSKI: My name is Mike Lapinski.

3

I'm from Monroe County. I was there the first

4

time that they tried to blow up the World Trade

5

Center.

6

MR. DUGAN: February 26, 1993, a Friday.

7

It was 37 degrees. It was the first Friday of

8

Lent. I was making stuffed flounder for lunch --

9

(Laughter.)

10

MR. DUGAN: (Continuing) -- and responded

11

from Spanish Harlem to the World Trade Center.

12

MR. LAPINSKI: I wasn't there on that day,

13

but two days later I was with the Fire Marshal's

14

office from New York City, and he showed me

15

everything down there; and then I did an

16

internship in the 80's in New York City. I was

17

in Harlem, but I was befriended by Rescue Two,

18

and I was also there for 9/11 with the disaster

19

response team out of -- I was there for three

20

days. My question is, I haven't back to New York

21

City since 9/11, and it's hard for me to go back.

22

It's hard for me to be here this close to New

23

York City. How do you do it?

24

MR. DUGAN: Well, I go into the city, I

25

haven't been to the museum yet, but a friend of

1
2 mine's son, he just left the Marine Corp, and
3 he's marrying his girlfriend, and she's a
4 Tuesday's child. Her dad worked for Canter
5 Fitzgerald and was murdered; and she said to me,
6 I want you to take me to the museum; and I looked
7 at my wife, and I said, damn, I'm going to put my
8 big boy pants on and do this. I have to take
9 this child. She was in second grade, and her own
10 teachers whispering behind her, and she knew
11 something was up, because they were all talking
12 behind her; and I love this young lady. She's
13 like I want you to take me. So my wife and her
14 fiancée, soon to be her husband, said they're
15 going to go on a date, and the two of us are
16 going to go on a date, and we're going to go down
17 there. So we have a scheduled date in October to
18 go down to the museum. I haven't been there yet.
19 So I'm going to go down and do what I got to do.
20 I have a lot of friends who have done it, and
21 like I said, I wasn't ready to do it yet, but
22 that's personal. That's on you. Just like
23 watching the 9/11 documentaries that are coming
24 on later this month, early next month, I don't
25 watch them, I lived it. I get emotional, but

1
2 that's okay. For the guys with the PTSD, the
3 stuff that I dealt with, the 9/11 stuff, crying
4 is not a bad thing, because I'm getting it out.
5 I'm letting it go. I'm processing it. I am
6 dealing with it. It's when you hold that stuff
7 in and look for something to kill it inside of
8 you, alcohol, marijuana, whatever else you are
9 using, that's where you're going to hurt yourself
10 and the brothers and sisters in the fire service.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. VOCE: Can I just mention something on
13 a good note?

14 MR. DUGAN: Sure.

15 MR. VOCE: This Rep for Responders -- been
16 working on it, my son right now has gotten over
17 that, went down, rejoined NYPD, and he's working
18 in the mental health. He's getting married on
19 August 26th. We're going out to Long Island on
20 the sound and having a grand wedding, because
21 why, we reached out for help. There's people out
22 there to talk. Like you say, that one place
23 there, whatever is good for you, go for it. In
24 Rockland, Repsforresponders. I'm serious. Have
25 a great day.

1

2

MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

3

Any other questions?

4

(No response.)

5

MR. DUGAN: So I'm going to just finish it.

6

Remember, it does get better.

7

The alternatives are not good. Suicide,

8

drinking yourself to death, they're not good.

9

There's my cell number. I'll give you a

10

business card. You can call me. I do turn it

11

off at night; and my email is simple. I'm old

12

school, it's duganfire@aol.com. Yes, I'm still

13

using AOL.

14

(Laughter.)

15

MR. DUGAN: Listen, it's better. They're

16

not mad. They're not angry. They still call me.

17

They talk to me all the time. It gets better.

18

Thank you.

19

(Applause.)

20

MR. FARRELL: Chief, thank you very much.

21

On behalf of FASNY officers and members, in

22

the box here is one of these.

23

MR. DUGAN: Thank you very much. I

24

appreciate it. Thank you very much. I

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appreciate it.

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MR. FARRELL: Thank you very much.

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MR. DUGAN: Thank you very much.

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MR. FARRELL: We will now reconvene our
business session.

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If you intend on making a motion or a
second, please proceed to one of the microphones
in the aisle and clearly state your name for the
record.

10

11

MR. GALVIN: Vincent Galvin, Hudson Valley,
makes that motion.

12

MR. FARRELL: What motion?

13

(Laughter.)

14

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MR. FARRELL: The minutes of the 2021
Annual Meeting have been posted on the FASNY
website.

17

18

Mr. Secretary, are there any additions or
corrections to the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes?

19

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: There are none.

20

21

MR. FARRELL: I will entertain a motion to
adopt the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

22

23

MR. GALVIN: Vincent Galvin from Hudson
Valley, moves the motion.

24

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MR. FARRELL: Motion made. Do I have a
second?

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MR. FRITSCHER: Bob Fritsche, Westchester
County, seconds that.

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MR. FARRELL: All in favor?

5

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

6

MR. FARRELL: Any opposed?

7

(No response.)

8

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

9

Mr. Secretary, is there any unfinished
business that has been carried over from the 2021
Annual Meeting?

10

11

12

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: There is no unfinished
business.

13

14

MR. FARRELL: Is there any new business to
come before the membership at this time?

15

16

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: There is no new business
at this time.

17

18

MR. FARRELL: The following is my
President's report for 2020 to 2022.

19

20

To say that my term as President of FASNY
was anything but normal might be the greatest
understatement of our 150 year history. I took
office in a year that our normal convention was
cancelled due to COVID-19. In its place, we
allowed limited attendance at our annual meeting

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1
2 held in Troy on August 22, 2020. My first board
3 meeting was concluded with one leadership
4 position vacant, because there were two
5 candidates for the office and no in person
6 meeting to conduct a vote. Shortly thereafter,
7 Treasurer Thomas Krawczyk retired after 23 years
8 of dedicated service to this organization.

9 My first legislative weekend in 2020 was
10 also conducted with limited attendance due to the
11 increased rate of COVID-19. Fortunately,
12 technology allowed us to have members and
13 sectional organizations participate virtually.
14 Despite these challenges, the business of this
15 association had to be accomplished.

16 On October 17, 2020, the Board of Directors
17 appointed Andrew Doyle as the Treasurer of FASNY.
18 The association also held an election for the
19 position of Second Vice President. Because of
20 COVID, this election was conducted with mail-in
21 ballots as opposed to in-person voting. The
22 result of this unique vote saw Eugene Perry
23 elected to the position of Second Vice President.
24 I finally had a full Board of Directors.

25 During the time, the Board of Directors

1
2 created a planning committee for the purpose of
3 determining where FASNY was and where it wanted
4 to be. Finally, we closed out 2020 by elevating
5 Treasurer Andrew Doyle to the additional position
6 of Director of Operations.

7 As the association moved forward in 2020,
8 we continued to hold many meetings virtually,
9 including the Board of Directors, the EMS
10 Conference, the EMS Seminar, and Recruit New York
11 2021. We also saw the completion and
12 distribution of a multi-year cancer study in the
13 volunteer fire service conducted by Northwell
14 Health.

15 The Capital Projects Committee has also
16 been very busy over the last two years, beginning
17 with the installation of sprinklers at our
18 headquarters, which was completed in April of
19 2021. Due to COVID-19, it was also decided that
20 in 2021 to create a high-tech classroom/boardroom
21 on the second floor of 107 to hold safe and
22 efficient meetings.

23 FASNY's leadership also decided that a
24 unique way to embody our second 150 years was to
25 give the front of our headquarters building a

1
2 complete facelift. This vision has made the
3 building look like a fire station, and we were
4 fortunate to hold an in-person dedication
5 ceremony this past June.

6 In response to COVID-19, our committees
7 also had to change their ways of serving our
8 members. For example, the Youth in the Fire
9 Service Committee held their first virtual
10 training class, which saw over a hundred
11 participants. The EMS Committee, the Training
12 and Education Committee experienced the same
13 challenges and had the same great results in
14 attendance.

15 In September of 2021, the Training and
16 Education Committee conducted a first of its kind
17 firefighter training weekend in conjunction with
18 the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. It
19 was held at the State Preparedness Training
20 Center in Oneida County, and it was a huge
21 success. Motivated by this success, we are
22 planning to have a second one this coming
23 September.

24 In addition, FASNY continues to provide
25 support and the resources for the Annual Old

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Forge Training Weekend.

Coming from our limited convention in 2020, the convention committee worked extremely hard to make sure that our convention in 2021 was done safely and professionally; and we were able to have that to be held in Westchester County. It was the first time in a year and a half that the FASNY family was able to get together face to face. Director Donald Farrell and the Convention and Exhibits Committee deserve our extreme thanks for a job well done.

Convention 2021 was also notable because it was the first time that FASNY and LAFASNY held their conventions under the same roof, along with holding a joint memorial service.

Our 2021 legislative weekend was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in the city of Troy. At that meeting we honored New York State Senator John Brooks as our 2021 Golden Trumpet Award winner for his continuing support of the New York State volunteer first responders. Due to the continued hard work of FASNY's leadership and the legislative committee, our legislative program continues to be extremely successful.

1
2 It is also important to note that during
3 the multi-year COVID-19, Firemen's Home
4 Administrator Keith Henchey and his staff more
5 than rose to the challenge of protecting the
6 residents. They did this while also ensuring
7 their dignity and maintaining the quality
8 environment that our home away from home is known
9 for.

10 In the beginning of 2022, the Board of
11 Directors took a major step forward by changing
12 our name to the Firefighters Association of the
13 State of New York. FASNY, and the volunteer fire
14 service we represent, have come so far since our
15 association's beginnings in 1872, and we are very
16 proud of the history. The leadership of FASNY
17 views this milestone anniversary as an
18 opportunity to not only honor our past, but to
19 position FASNY for a productive future of
20 representing fire and EMS volunteers across New
21 York State.

22 As we entered 2022, we also looked back at
23 1872. The 150th Anniversary Committee continues
24 to review the projects and events that honor and
25 celebrate our 150 years of service. FASNY's

1
2 first meeting took place in Auburn, New York back
3 in 1872. Years ago, this event was recognized by
4 the State of New York with an historic marker
5 being placed in the city. Time had taken its
6 toll on the marker, so FASNY's Board of Directors
7 worked with the Auburn officials to have the
8 marker reconditioned. We are planning a
9 rededication ceremony for October 1st and 2nd,
10 2022. This is exactly 150 years to the day that
11 FASNY was formed.

12 The Convention and Exhibits Committee is
13 working extremely hard to meet the demands of
14 this 150th Convention; and we have a full
15 schedule for all our officers and members to
16 enjoy. The association has also received an
17 invitation from the Tarrytown Fire Department to
18 participate in their annual inspection parade as
19 part of our 150th anniversary celebration.

20 It has really been an honor to serve you as
21 the 149th President of this esteemed
22 organization. I can't say enough about the Board
23 of Directors, the Trustees, the office staff, the
24 committees, and the Firemen's Home. It's been a
25 great ride.

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I also look forward to being the first Past President of the next 150 years and to continue to help move FASNY forward.

Special thanks needs to be given to the Town of Athens Fire Services for their support throughout the years.

Also to my wife and my family for their support. Although I missed family events and activities, their patience and encouragement has enabled me to serve my other family, the volunteer fire service.

Thank you, and God bless.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. TASE: Thank you, brother John.

As John mentioned in his speech that he just gave, he mentioned the marker for Auburn. That marker is on display here today that was refurbished. That marker will go back to Auburn, the original location and be dedicated in October. That is the original marker; and thank you, John, for allowing that to move forward.

I now call upon First Lady Marilyn Farrell for adoption of the President's report.

MRS. FARRELL: I make a motion that the

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President's report be accepted.

MR. TASE: Thank you.

I call upon Marilyn Schrader to second that report.

MS. SCHRADER: Mr. Vice President, I second that report.

MR. TASE: I have a motion, and I have a second.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor signify with aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

Thank you, John.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I now call on Secretary John D'Alessandro for the Annual Report of the FASNY Secretary. John?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: There is a famous quote that goes, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." Well, time

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2 tests all things. Like individual people, this
3 is all but true for organizations. If an
4 organization is to survive the test of time, it
5 must be adaptable, while at the same time
6 remaining true to it's founding principles.

7 As the Firefighters Association of the
8 State of New York enters its 151st year, we
9 continue to pursue our core mission to inform,
10 educate, and train. During this time, we have
11 also had to be structurally adaptable and
12 operationally flexible to respond to the
13 challenges that time has put in our path. This
14 is exemplified by evaluating staff assignments,
15 increased use of virtual meetings, and even in
16 changing our name to the Firefighters Association
17 of the State of New York.

18 Many of the challenges we have faced in the
19 last two years were created by the COVID-19
20 pandemic. By meeting those challenges head on,
21 we were able to turn them into opportunities to
22 efficiently meet the goals of our association by
23 adopting new systems, embracing new technologies,
24 increasing communication, and working with other
25 first responder organizations, we continue to

1
2 effectively service our members, including the
3 attainment of some long sought after legislative
4 goals.

5 What started as a conversation during a
6 parade in 1872, has evolved into an organization
7 that continues to withstand the test of time.

8 As Association Secretary, I am happy to
9 report that the health of our organization is
10 good and that our commitment to our core mission
11 continues to grow. Our efforts to protect the
12 wellbeing and safety of first responders is the
13 foundation of FASNY's reputation as the
14 preeminent voice of the volunteer fire and EMS
15 services in New York and a respected voice on the
16 national stage.

17 Since the 149th annual meeting of the
18 organization last August, the Board of Directors
19 has met 15 times. Copies of the meeting minutes
20 are distributed and are available for review at
21 FASNY headquarters. The Secretary's office also
22 retains transcripts of previous annual meetings,
23 nominating petitions, contact information of all
24 elected officers, listings of appointed committee
25 members, and copies of current corporate

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documents.

In addition to the recordkeeping duties of the office, the bylaws of the organization state that, "The Secretary shall assume responsibility for supervising the registration of members entitled to vote and issuing voting cards, ballots, or other like documents should a vote or election be called at any meeting of the membership."

The offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and a seat on the Board of Directors are up for election this year. One seat on the Firemen's Home Board of Trustees is also open.

I also serve as FASNY's Volunteer Programs Coordinator. In this capacity, I assist the recruitment and retention committee in their efforts and am responsible for the administration of our Safer Grant, our New York State Senate grants, and the FASNY Help College Tuition Reimbursement Program. In 2021, 2022, the Safer Grant continues to fund a statewide outreach campaign, which includes a website, social media, internet advertising, radio spots, television

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2 commercials, and department recruitment kits.
3 This grant also provides resources to promote
4 Recruit New York Weekend. In addition to our
5 Safer Grant, we were once again fortunate to
6 receive another grant from the New York State
7 Senate to conduct recruitment and retention
8 programs. The planning for several youth days
9 and Firefighter-For-A-Day events is in its final
10 stages, and we hope to hold several this year.

11 FASNY has 32,198 members as of July 1st.
12 This is the dividend generated by the hard work
13 of our elected officers, staff, and committee
14 people. While we appreciate your membership,
15 simply paying your dues is not enough. We need
16 you to be individually involved if we are to
17 continue to advocate for New York's volunteer
18 first responders. Join a committee. Attend one
19 of the many training and seminars; and above all,
20 make your voice heard on legislative issues that
21 directly affect our health and wellbeing. We
22 also need you to speak to non member departments
23 about the benefits of being part of FASNY.
24 Ultimately, joining the association produces real
25 results for each and every volunteer department

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2 across the state. The old adage about strength
3 in numbers is especially true in the current
4 social and political environment.

5 This association not only welcomes the
6 future, but continues to prepare its members for
7 it. Through our mission of informing, educating,
8 and training volunteer first responders, we
9 recognize the importance of our commitment to
10 serve in the never ending boundaries of what is
11 humanly possible, yet we must never forget that
12 the foundation of the volunteer fire and EMS
13 services is built upon the dedication of trained,
14 motivated individuals.

15 This is as true on every emergency call as
16 it is in the FASNY meeting room. I am humbled to
17 be in the company of good men and women who are
18 ready to respond at a moment's notice and have
19 put the wellbeing of others ahead of themselves.

20 I am proud to be part of that thin red line
21 that shields people from danger, because we
22 believe all lives matter.

23 Be strong, serve well, and above all,
24 remain safe.

25 Thank you.

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(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I will now call upon Treasurer, Sean Kerwin, for the Annual Report of the FASNY Treasurer and the Annual 519 Report of FASNY.

MR. KERWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

"In accordance with FASNY'S Constitution and Bylaws, it is my pleasure to report on the health of the association. Our most recent year ending September 30, 2021. Our financial statements were audited by Battaglia and Associates, CPA firm, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Battaglia. The association -- The outcome of the audit, I should say, was an unqualified opinion, which is really the favorable opinion you want saying that your books were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

If anyone is interested in reviewing this exciting audit --

(Laughter.)

MR. KERWIN: (Continuing) -- please feel free to reach out to me, and I can provide you with a copy of that report.

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Moreover, I have the report as the President said, the 519 Annual Report, which is pursuant to Section 519 of the not-for-profit corporate law --

MR. T. HANNIGAN: Corporation.

MR. KERWIN: Okay, corporation law.

Basically what I have to do is tell you what the balances were, the assets, liabilities, revenues, the expenses, as of June 30th of 2022. So here we go.

The assets and liabilities, including the trust fund for the corporation as of June 30th. The total assets were \$43,886,463.00; and the liabilities totalled \$1,918,432.00.

This is a quote from the information provided by the CPA firm. Basically the assets and liabilities for this fiscal period remain unchanged from the prior period of last year. So that's a good thing, home run.

Revenues, there's two sources of revenues, restricted and unrestricted. So the unrestricted we use for the general fund paying daily operations and so forth. The restricted funds or revenues are earmarked for a specific purpose.

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So unrestricted funds, revenues, came in at \$17,687,008.00. The restricted portion of revenues was \$32,119.00.

For our expenses through June 30th of 2022, we had total general purpose expenses of \$16,514,305.00; and we had restricted expenditures of only \$3,769.00.

Lastly, based upon 519 reporting as John just said about our membership; and as of June 30, 2022 we had 32,187 members, which is a little bit less than what we had from the prior year.

And that is the conclusion of my report. I would just like to say one last thing. I'm new to the Board, and I really want to thank President Farrell, First Vice President Tase, Second Vice President Perry, and the entire Board of Directors, and everyone at 107 Washington Avenue who helped me out in giving me this wonderful opportunity; and I look forward to being here for at least 23 years.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: The Annual Officers and Committee reports are printed in the Convention

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Ad Book, which is available in the Office of the Secretary located at the registration desk.

The Chair will entertain a motion to accept the printed reports as they appear in the convention ad book.

Do I have a motion?

MR. PETTINGAL: Frank Pettingal, Hudson Valley, makes the motion.

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

MR. MCELYNN: Kevin McElynn, Nassau County, seconds it.

MR. FARRELL: Motion has been made and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

I now will call upon Second Vice President Eugene Perry to come up for a few announcements.

MR. PERRY: Thank you, President Farrell.

At the conclusion of today's business session there will be a cocktail reception from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the exhibitors' area.

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We encourage everybody to stop by and visit our exhibitors.

The business session will be reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning right here in the Mary Duke Ballroom.

The Annual Two Percent Tax Forum will also be held tomorrow from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. here in the ballroom.

Also, tomorrow evening is the 150th Anniversary Dinner Cruise around Manhattan. The buses will be leaving the hotel at 5:00 p.m. Proper attire is required. No shorts or t-shirts allowed.

On Friday morning registration will open at 7:30 a.m. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. The voting will take place in the Biddle Mansion Sun Porch. That's in this building, all the way to the right. The polls will close at 1:00 p.m.

Again, the business session will begin in the Mary Duke Ballroom at 9:00 a.m.

We also have two training classes scheduled for Friday morning. The first one, "So, you want to climb the ladder of leadership", which will be held here in the Mary Duke Ballroom immediately

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2 following the morning session. The second class
3 will be introduction into "Fire Company Civil
4 Officer Positions," which will be held in the
5 Riverview Conference Room in the Atrium at 10:00
6 a.m.

7 There will be a barbecue from 11:00 a.m. to
8 2:00 p.m. in the Winter Palace that's in this
9 building on the veranda.

10 The LAFASNY Installation of Officers will
11 take place on Friday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in
12 the New York Ballroom.

13 On Friday evening we will have our 10th
14 Annual Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial FASNY
15 Volunteer Scholarship Fundraiser, which is being
16 held here in the Mary Duke Ballroom beginning at
17 6:00 p.m. and will conclude at midnight.

18 On Saturday morning, we will have the
19 swearing in ceremony for the newly elected FASNY
20 officers. This will begin at 8:30 a.m. with
21 breakfast here in the Mary Duke Ballroom. The
22 program will begin at around 9:00 a.m.

23 On Saturday afternoon, the Tarrytown Fire
24 Department is hosting the 150th Anniversary Dress
25 Parade. We will be providing shuttle buses from

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the hotels into town for anyone who wants to watch the parade. The shuttle buses will start running at about 1:00 p.m.

The FASNY officers who are marching in the parade, there will be a separate shuttle bus leaving for the lineup at 1:45 p.m.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Director Don Farrell or April Rounds.

Thank you.

MR. FARRELL: At this time, I will entertain a motion to recess today's session and reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Do I have a motion?

MR. JEWETT: J.M. Jewett, Southwestern makes a motion.

MR. FARRELL: Can I have a second?

MS. HOLLAND: Marsha Holland, Southwestern, seconds the motion.

MR. FARRELL: Motion made and seconded.

All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

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Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned to
Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.)

