

# PROCLAMATION

## BOROUGH OF RED BANK

### 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**WHEREAS**, like many communities, the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department (RBVFD) began as a bucket brigade until the founding of the Navesink Hook and Ladder Company in 1872; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1873, a fire bell was placed on Mechanic Street and, in 1880, Relief Engine Company, Independent Engine Company and Liberty Hose Company were formed, followed by Union Hose Company in 1890 and Westside Hose Company in 1909; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1929, thirteen members of the Department each contributed \$10 toward the purchase of an ambulance which marked the beginning of the First Aid and Rescue Squad in 1930; and

**WHEREAS**, the RBVFD also has a Fire Police unit whose origins date back to 1886 and a SCUBA/Dive Team unit that began in the 1950s; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has the designation of having the first female firefighter recognized by the State of New Jersey when Emma Vernell joined the Westside Hose Company in 1926 after her husband Harry, also a member of Westside, died in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, the RBVFD today is comprised of five firefighting companies with the transition of Relief Engine Company to an auxiliary unit known as the Historic Relief Engine Company and continues a long tradition of multigenerational membership with children and grandchildren following in the footsteps of their ancestors; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Department will celebrate their 150 years of service to its community at a dinner on September 10, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pasquale Menna, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank, on behalf of the Borough Council, the residents and the business community, commend and congratulate the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department on its 150 years of volunteer service to the community and offer our sincere gratitude to not only its dedicated members but also to their families who have sacrificed so much in the countless hours their family members have given to the fire service.



  
PASQUALE MENNA  
MAYOR