



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Revitalizing Olean and the City of Olean to Honor Firefighter**

**June 27, 2016—Olean**—A Plaque Dedication Ceremony in honor of Herbert V. Elmore will take place on Saturday, July 2, 2016 at the Olean Central Fire Station on North Union Street at 10:00 a.m. Revitalizing Olean, the Facebook group, founded by Kathy Paciorkowski, was instrumental in organizing the tribute to the late Mr. Elmore.

Mr. Elmore was a member of the Olean Fire Department. He was hired in 1964 and was the first African American firefighter hired by the City of Olean. He was known throughout the community and was a very active member of the department. An on-the-job injury disabled his firefighting duties in December 1974; however he continued to be instrumental in the fundraising activities of the Professional Firefighters Association until his death in 1994.

“Revitalizing Olean is always on the look for a project that will make Olean a better place to live and the sign at the Fire Training Center at Gargoyle Park caught our eyes,” said Ms. Paciorkowski. “It had been weather beaten and needed to be refreshed; with a donation from Close’s lumber, and the artistic ability of Brittani Jones from Brittani’s Country Loft, we were able to update the sign.”

Revitalizing Olean simultaneously noticed that the building had been dedicated to Mr. Elmore and wanted to get a plaque to recognize this fact.

“Once Revitalizing Olean decided that we wanted to honor of Mr. Elmore, we devised a plan to raise funds,” Ms. Paciorkowski continued. “Paul and Sue Marra graciously hosted a New Year’s Eve event for us at the Premier Banquet Center and Cory Crandall of Crandall Memorial’s helped us create the plaque which reads ‘*In honor of Herbert V. Elmore 1930-1994 for his faithful service to our City, may his courageous deeds live on forever through those who serve.*’ We are very pleased with the plaque, it is beautiful.”

Revitalizing Olean worked with Mayor William J. Aiello and Fire Chief Robert Bell to establish the date, the time and the venue for the dedication ceremony. “It seemed more appropriate to have the ceremony at the Central Fire Station as it is more centrally located and visible,” said Chief Bell.

“Even though I never worked with Firefighter Elmore as an active firefighter, when I was a member of the Professional Fire Association (PFA), I was assigned for years to work with Herbie to sell the PFA’s annual Dance tickets. Firefighter Elmore taught me the value of working on the Department and giving back to the community during this assignment and I will never forget this time with him,” Chief Bell added.

“I had the pleasure of working with Herbie,” said Mayor Aiello. “He was a very dedicated member of the Olean Fire Department and I am looking forward to this tribute to him.”

Mayor Aiello continued, “This ceremony to honor Mr. Elmore is just one project of Revitalizing Olean. The enthusiasm and hard work of the group can be seen throughout the City. The group works with the City of Olean Neighborhood Preservation Committee to help rid our community of litter. In addition, the former First National Bank Building and neighboring former shoe store were an eyesore, but the group found time to clean the buildings and fill that corner with plants and vibrant colors.”

Ms. Paciorkowski added, “Revitalizing Olean is made up of members who care about Olean. The members love our City; they want it to prosper and are helping to achieve that goal. This dedication ceremony for Mr. Elmore proves that with collaboration and hard work anything can be achieved. We are very pleased that the Elmore family will be joining us for the ceremony and would like to extend the invitation to the public.”

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