

2013-K773

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring President James L. Muyskens upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Queens College

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge significant milestones in the distinguished lives and careers of esteemed residents of this Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor President James L. Muyskens upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Queens College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Muyskens is being recognized for his dedicated service to New York State as the ninth President of Queens College, City University of New York, a position he has held with distinction since July 2002; and

WHEREAS, President Muyskens will retire as of December 31, 2013, leaving a legacy of excellence in education during a period of outstanding growth and achievement for the institution; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Central College in Iowa, Dr. Muyskens earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Muyskens' appointment to Queens College brought him back to New York City where he began his career as an assistant professor and then full professor of philosophy at Hunter College; he also served as chair of the Hunter College Department of Philosophy and as associate provost and acting provost; moving on to a seven year position as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas and then serving as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs for the 34-campus University System of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, Dr. Muyskens will continue his contribution to education by returning to the halls of academia as a professor

of philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan; and
WHEREAS, This honorable and committed educator is also a man of vision; during his tenure, Dr. Muyskens revised and upgraded the college's undergraduate General Education curriculum; introduced new programs in business administration, neuroscience, graphic design, bioinformatics, and other disciplines; recruited hundreds of new, world-class faculty who emphasized instruction and research; oversaw the completion of the renovation of Powdermaker Hall and a major addition to Remsen Hall; and, in 2009, welcomed 500 students to the college's first residence hall; and

WHEREAS, While President Muyskens' vision for the future has given the college an exceptional plan and ambitious goals for the next 20 years through the college's new strategic planning initiative, he made provision for that future by spearheading the college's most successful capital campaign; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Muyskens' excellence in leadership earned Queens College a glowing reaccreditation report from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in 2007; in 2011, Education Trust named Queens College as one of the five top schools throughout the nation that excelled in serving low-income students; and in 2013, Washington Monthly ranked Queens College second in the nation for best value; and

WHEREAS, As one of his goals was increased enrollment, President Muyskens saw the number of students increase from 15,000 to 20,000, over half of whom were born in other countries, improving access to the college and significantly elevating Queens College's status in the higher education marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Reflecting both his background in religion and philosophy and the ethnic diversity of Queens County where more than 160 languages are

spoken and people have immigrated from 200 countries, President Muyskens introduced the "Year Of" initiative to help expand students' awareness of the world's diversity; each year, the campus examines the history,

art and culture of a different country through the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding which has become a forum that students praise for addressing difficult issues through dialogue and interaction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Muyskens is the author of two books, THE SUFFICIENCY OF HOPE and MORAL PROBLEMS IN NURSING: A PHILOSOPHICAL INVESTIGATION, as well as numerous articles concerning the philosophy of religion and ethics; and

WHEREAS, President Muyskens will leave behind a rich legacy, having served with loyalty, honor, and distinction, governed by a keen sense of duty; this remarkable educator and administrator always showed a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Muyskens has led Queens College with grace and skill and is an inspirational guide for the college and its students; Queens College and the City University of New York are in his debt; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor President James L. Muyskens upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Queens College; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. James L. Muyskens and to the City University of New York.