

2013-J3699

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John T. Ahern upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who work diligently to preserve and celebrate their rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John T. Ahern upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, In acknowledgment of this most prestigious appointment John T. Ahern will have the honor of leading the 253rd consecutive New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade up Fifth Avenue on Monday, March 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, New York City St. Patrick's Parade marched for the first time in 1762, 14 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Parade is regarded as the most popular of all the Parades in New York City, and honors Saint Patrick - the patron Saint of the Archdiocese of New York and Ireland; and

WHEREAS, The New York Parade consists only of marchers and each year hosts some 250,000 marchers and two million spectators; the Parade has many outstanding marching bands, bagpipers in marching formations, high school and college bands from throughout the United States and from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, John (Jack) T. Ahern was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Jack and Margaret Ahern from County Cork; he is the oldest of four children and is very proud of his Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, Jack Ahern was educated at Holy Cross Elementary School, Nazareth High School and Brooklyn College; he is the elected Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 30, a position he has held since 1999; and

WHEREAS, Jack Ahern began his service with IUOE Local 30 in 1974, as an apprentice, and rose steadily within the New York based mechanical and engineering workers' union; as the leader of the IUOE Local 30, he has successfully negotiated hundreds of strong wage and benefit contracts on behalf of the 4,500 plus Local 30 members; and

WHEREAS, Jack Ahern serves as Chairman of the Trustees for the International Union of Operating Engineers, and as Trustee of the IUOE Northeastern Conference; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Jack Ahern serves as Vice-Chairperson of the New York City Municipal Labor Committee, Executive Board member of the New York Building Congress, and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Molloy College; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day Parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and provides an opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal for the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, Jack Ahern embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; 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 John T. Ahern upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John T. Ahern.