

2013-J3747

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sean O'Rourke upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 2014 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 2014

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of Irish people throughout the United States; 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, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sean O'Rourke upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 2014 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, For the past 18 years, the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade has remained dedicated to promoting Irish heritage, traditions, family, and patriotic values; it has gained a reputation as one of the best in the State and boasts over 100 contingents including many of the area's top pipe bands; and

WHEREAS, This St. Patrick's Day parade is unique in being one of the first such parades to raise money for worthy causes; during the past 17 years, the Parade has supported and donated significant funds to 52 charitable organizations; it is truly the parade that cares and shares; and

WHEREAS, The three charities that have been selected as beneficiaries of the 2014 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade include New Ground, Inc., The Angelman Syndrome Foundation, and the Nassau County AOH Irish Feis and Festival; and

WHEREAS, Sean O'Rourke is a long-time resident of Rockville Centre, New York and member of the Parish of St. Agnes since 1983; he has been tremendously supportive of the Parade, and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the community and on issues affecting Irish Americans; and

WHEREAS, The oldest of eight children born to Bridget and Thomas O'Rourke in County Galway, Ireland, Sean O'Rourke came to America in 1971, at the tender age of 19; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Sean O'Rourke became President of the Division Three Nassau County Ancient Order of Hibernians, making him the youngest Division President in the United States at the time; he was later honored as Division Three Man of the Year in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Sean O'Rourke is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Coast-Line International Distributors Ltd., a supplier of raw materials to the aircraft and aerospace industries; furthermore, he serves as President and CEO of Bangor Reality; and

WHEREAS, Genuinely concerned with the promotion of Irish culture, Sean O'Rourke has assumed an active role in the community; for the past 30 years, he has been a member and one of the main sponsors of the Galway Mummers Festival, which promotes traditional Irish music, dance and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, he was a founding member of the Eire OG Gaelic Football Club, and currently plays with the Long Island Gaels Hurling and Football Club; Sean O'Rourke was honored by both the New York State Gaelic Athletic Association and Ards Friary in 2010 as Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute of Irish Studies at Molloy College and joined the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade Committee in 1998, serving as its

Vice-President during 2009 and 2010 and as its President during 2011 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Cynthia, their five

children, Heather, Cynthia, Thomas, Patricia and Breffni, and their spouses, as well as five grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Sean O'Rourke has displayed throughout his life; 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 this great Empire State; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sean O'Rourke upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 2014 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sean O'Rourke.