

## 2013-K896

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee on the occasion of its 39th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16, 2014

WHEREAS, "Faith, History, Tribute & Remembrance" are the core of the Annual Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade held on the 3rd Sunday in March; and

WHEREAS, We celebrate the Faith of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland; despite religious persecution, famine, colonial occupation and political oppression, our ancestors kept the Faith alive by their indomitable spirit against the British occupier who banned the celebration of Mass in their Churches, arrested and harassed the priests and during the Penal Days, the faithful had to gather at "Mass Rocks" in the glens; and WHEREAS, The faith of St. Patrick was transmitted and transplanted by the millions of Irish immigrants who came to America and the first Bishop of Brooklyn John Loughlin from County Down, Ireland; we join in Faith, with the present Bishop of Brooklyn, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio in preserving that Faith and Catholic Education with its Irish roots in the diocese of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, The Parade was founded in 1975 in preparation for our Nation's Bicentennial and its ongoing theme has been The Battle of Brooklyn, the 1st battle of the American Revolutionary War, in which Washington's Irish generals, John Sullivan and Edward Hand played significant roles and the heroics of the "Maryland 400" Brigade at The Old Stone House, holding off the British long enough for Washington's Army to cross the East River to Manhattan, saving his army and our fledgling Republic; and

WHEREAS, The intertwined Histories of Ireland and America, a rich and unique history which spans the contributions of Erin's sons and daugh-

ters to the independence, formation and development of the United States; Irish Americans served with great distinction, honor and heroism in all of the wars, from Washington's Irish generals in the American Revolutionary War, to Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish Brigade in the Civil War, to the famed fighting Irish 69th Regiment; and

WHEREAS, The Parade pays tribute to Erin's sons and daughters, both past and present, for their vast contributions to The Church, to our Military and Uniformed Services, to public and civic life, to labor and the law, to education and healthcare, and to their Borough, City, State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Parade Theme this year is "The Bicentennial of the Star Spangled Banner" and "The 135th Anniversary of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn"; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Parade is dedicated to the memory of Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan (1985 Parade Grand Marshal); and

WHEREAS, The Parade will Forever be "In Remembrance of" the Heroes and Victims of 9/11-WTC, those whose spirit shines in the darkness: 343 FDNY Fire Fighters; 23 NYPD Police Officers; 2 EMPS Officers; 3 NYC Court Officers; 37 PA Police; 37 PA Personnel, we pause to remember the 13th Anniversary of the attack; and

WHEREAS, This year's Grand Marshal is Reverend James K. Cunningham, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church and his aids are: Frank Carroll (United Irish Counties of New York), Paul Finnegan (Irish Culture - Executive Director, New York Irish Center), Captain James Grant (Uniformed Services - Commanding Officer, 72nd Precinct), James Keenan (Gaelic Sports - Brooklyn Shamrock's Irish Football Club), Maura O'Donnell Lorenzen (Education-Principal, St. Savior Catholic Academy), Mary O'Hara (LAOH-Kings County Board), Anne Strafacci (Aide-At-Large -

Development Officer, St. Patrick's Parish), and Edward Velinskie (AOH-Kings County Board); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commend the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee on its 39th St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Sunday, March 16th, 2014, Parade Chairperson James McDonagh and Parade co-Chairperson Michelle Brennan and all the citizens of Brooklyn, participating in this important memorable, religious, cultural and civic event; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend James K. Cunningham, Frank Carroll, Paul Finnegan, Captain James Grant, James Keenaghan, Maura O'Donnell Lorenzen, Mary O'Hara, Anne Strafacci, Edward Velinskie, and the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee.