

## 2013-K947

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ireland's Kerry Cattle Society upon the occasion of hosting a dinner for several New York State members of the American Kerry Cattle Society at the Lake Hotel in Killarney on March 30, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the New York State members of the American Kerry Cattle Association who are traveling to Ireland to attend a dinner on their behalf hosted by the Ireland Kerry Cattle Society at the Lake Hotel in Killarney on March 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, From March 26 to April 1, 2014, several members of the American Kerry Cattle Society will tour farms in the Killarney, Ireland area which raise Kerry cattle; and

WHEREAS, Having the dinner at the Lake Hotel in Killarney is appropriate as it was at the hotel in July 1917 that The Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society of Ireland was formed, which two years later became The Kerry Cattle Society of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1890s and early 1900s, John Hilliard established the Castlelough herd at the hotel to provide milk and cream for hotel patrons; and

WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of the Kerry Cattle Society, whose efforts are largely responsible for the preservation of the breed, by the 1980's a serious decline in the number of registered Kerry cattle was recognized; and

WHEREAS, Through the cooperation of government, groups such as the Irish Kerry Cattle Society and dedicated individuals, the number of Kerry cattle had improved considerably by the late 1990s; additional breeders were established in Great Britain, Australia and North America; and

WHEREAS, With the recent industrialization of agriculture, exemplified by genetically modified plants and animals, the importance of preserving heritage breeds of livestock has taken on a new life and significance; and

WHEREAS, People in Ireland and the United States, as well as in the rest of the world, have become aware of the need for healthy food and the maintenance of the genetic integrity of heritage breeds; and

WHEREAS, Food safety is a concern across the globe and it is important countries work together to provide an ever increasing world population with food that is both safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the members of Kerry Cattle Society hold a special fondness for the people of Ireland who recognize and cherish this unique breed of cattle as part of their country's cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, The Kerry cow is touted for its hardiness; this Legislative Body, representing the citizens of the State of New York thank the people of Ireland who have worked so hard to persevere the Kelly cattle breed, and in doing so, have demonstrated the hardiness that typifies the breed they love; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations such as Ireland's Kerry Cattle Society 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 Ireland's Kerry Cattle Society upon the occasion of hosting a dinner for several New York State members of the American Kerry Cattle Society at the Lake Hotel in Killarney on March 30, 2014; and be it

further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ireland's Kerry Cattle Society, and to the members of the New York State American Kerry Cattle Association.