

2013-J5854

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, New York, upon the occasion of its Annual Festival on September 6, 2014

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commending the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, New York, upon the occasion of its Annual Festival to be held on the church grounds on Saturday, September 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs was born of a deep inner conviction on the part of the many Armenians living on Long Island for a place where they could worship God as their ancestors had worshiped throughout the centuries, and where old and young could gather to keep alive the rich Armenian spiritual and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, The desire grew and gained momentum, and in 1954 a building committee was formed to make the necessary transactions for the purchase of the property on which Holy Martyrs is now located; and

WHEREAS, Three prominent members of the community, Artin Aslanian, Dadour Dadourian and Poozant Piranian, generously contributed the initial cost of the land; in June of that year, the Certificate of Incorporation, filed in Albany, made the church an officially chartered institution; and

WHEREAS, As a bona fide parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Holy Martyrs was assigned its first priest-in-charge, Father

Torkom Manoogian, (of blessed memory His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem) who will long be remembered affectionately by the community for guiding its leaders in the right steps toward the formation of the parish; and

WHEREAS, Fundraising campaigns in the 1950s and 1960s produced the amounts necessary to construct the house of worship, consecrated in 1958; the purchase of a parish house close to the church provided adequate housing for the pastor; and

WHEREAS, In the course of time, a school and community center was built for the church's Sunday School and Armenian Language School; the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School, an accredited elementary school up to the sixth grade, is also housed in the complex; and

WHEREAS, Many auxiliary groups are currently supporting and serving the church in its mission to keep the Armenian spirit alive on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs ministers to over 1,000 families and is proud to be celebrating the 55th Anniversary of its consecration; and

WHEREAS, The Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, New York, upon the occasion of its Annual Festival on September 6, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, New York