

2013-J5858

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Maestro Irwin Meyer for special honor in recognition of being the longest serving bandleader in New York City on June 26, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize outstanding individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Maestro Irwin Meyer for special honor in recognition of being the longest serving bandleader in New York City to be celebrated at a party on Thursday, June 26, 2014, in Brooklyn, New York; in addition, this Legislative Body is proud to wish Maestro Irwin Meyer a very Happy 95th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Truly an amazing member of our country's Greatest Generation, Maestro Meyer is the Conductor/Music Director of the last surviving military style band in New York City, the Kings County American Legion Headquarters Band; and

WHEREAS, Irwin Meyer, a highly decorated World War II Navy veteran, served on active duty for six years on the staff of an admiral, and saw action in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific theaters, participating in four "D" Days; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Meyer, an accomplished musician, emerged from the ranks of the Kings County American Legion Headquarters Band over 42 years ago, to become its third regular conductor, and has remained to this day; currently, he is the oldest active band conductor of any band in the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Kings County American Legion Headquarters Band, in its 90 year history, has included musicians from the famous John Philip Sousa

Band, the Goldman Band, and other notable ensembles; today, the Band is open to anyone who plays a band instrument, and its members come from many backgrounds, including professional musicians, students, mechanics, teachers, police officers and health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, All members, including its conductor, volunteer their time and talents; in addition to performing all around Brooklyn, the Band has, from its inception, performed twice every year at the Memorial Day ceremony and the Veteran's Day ceremony, at the only Veteran's Cemetery in New York City, Cypress Hills Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Irwin Meyer is, indeed, an exceptionally proud veteran, one whose dedication and patriotism are an inspiration to all who know him; he is a survivor, not only of his military service, but from Hurricane Sandy as well, as he lost everything he ever owned during that devastating event; but, with his perpetual optimism, and belief in serving his fellow man, he bounced back, and remains the active conductor of this renowned band; and

WHEREAS, It has been the tradition, from day one, that this band never performs without playing the themes of the five branches of our military, and asks all those in the audience who are active members of our military, or who are veterans, to stand and be saluted; this band is well-known as the only one in New York City which does this throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, This one of a kind, truly great American, Irwin Meyer, is fittingly being honored and thanked for his long and faithful service to his community and his nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Maestro Irwin Meyer for special honor in recognition of being

the longest serving bandleader in New York City, to be observed at his 95th Birthday Celebration on June 26, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Irwin Meyer.