

2013-J5900

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 55th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes High School to be celebrated during 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of commitment and high achievement whose purpose and endeavors prove a dedication to the pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes High School; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Lourdes is a co-educational archdiocesan high school which seeks to offer a rigorous college preparatory education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ to a large and diverse community; and

WHEREAS, Animated by the charismas of the Sisters of St. Dominic and the Marist Brothers, Our Lady of Lourdes High School strives to enable all students to achieve their fullest potential: spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Lourdes High School opened its doors in September of 1958, with 280 students and a faculty that consisted of four Marist Brothers and four Newburgh Dominicans, an athletic coach and Monsignor Matthew Cox as supervising Principal; and

WHEREAS, The school was two separate co-institutional schools, 140 boys were taught in four classrooms and a lab, with 140 girls housed in four rented rooms in St. Mary's School; even when the boys and girls were finally housed in one building, the school remained, until 1970, co-institutional; and

WHEREAS, The building was purchased from the City of Poughkeepsie and was dedicated on May 1, 1960, by Cardinal Spellman; the name of the

school was chosen to honor Mary on the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes; and

WHEREAS, The school grew prodigiously from 1958 to 1962, accepting 280 students a year, so, that by the time the first class graduated in 1962, the total enrollment stood at 1,120 students; the class of 1964 sent 99% of its boys and 93% of its girls onto pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, During difficult times in the early 1990s, the Marist Brothers returned to Poughkeepsie, New York; it would be difficult to underestimate the impact the return of the Marist Brothers had on the school; a renewed sense of the original mission and a fierce determination to see the school not merely survive but flourish had characterized the early months; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1995, the Archdiocese of New York purchased a tract of land and a building from IBM, with the intention of moving the school to a larger site; renovation of the former laboratory began in the spring of 1996, when the building's interior was completely gutted, and finished in time for the opening of school in September of that same year; and

WHEREAS, One of the few Catholic High Schools located between Troy, New York, and Westchester County in the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York, Our Lady of Lourdes High School is one of 10 high schools under the auspices of the Archdiocese of New York; and

WHEREAS, The steadfast and unyielding commitment of parents, educators and administrators to provide the highest quality of education for students has become the hallmark and tradition of Our Lady of Lourdes High School; and

WHEREAS, Within the 21st Century, Our Lady of Lourdes High School stands prepared to reach out, in earnest and enthusiastic quest of its

mission, to promote the maximum growth of every student, establishing standards and building skills which will carry its students and the citizens of its community into the future; and

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Lourdes High School is proudly aware of its distinguished past, eager to fulfill its present commitment to parents, students and the community, and planning with vision and purpose for the ebb and swell of growth and change it will encounter in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes High School to be celebrated in 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Catherine Merryman, Principal, Our Lady of Lourdes High School Poughkeepsie, New York.