

2015-J500

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring President Emily Kernan Rafferty upon the occasion of her retirement after 39 years of distinguished service to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor President Emily Kernan Rafferty upon the occasion of her retirement after 39 years of distinguished service to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in New York City, Emily Kernan Rafferty graduated from Boston University, cum laude, and started her professional career as an assistant to David Rockefeller, Jr.; in 1973, she was named Deputy Director of Education at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, this esteemed woman began her career with the Metropolitan Museum of Art serving as an Administrator for Corporate, Foundation and Individual Fundraising; she was next promoted to Manager of Development in 1981, and later became Vice President for Development and Membership, where she served from 1984 until 1996; and

WHEREAS, After serving admirably as Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Emily Kernan Rafferty was elected to the illustrious position of President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2005; and

WHEREAS, President Emily Kernan Rafferty served with loyalty, honor and distinction as the museum's Chief Administrative Officer; she expertly directed the approximately 1,500 full and part-time museum employees in such areas as finance, technology, legal affairs,

construction and facilities management and human resources, as well as in government relations at the federal, state, and city levels; and

WHEREAS, For nearly four decades, Emily Kernan Rafferty rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, President Emily Kernan Rafferty was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, Emily Kernan Rafferty has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Emily Kernan Rafferty was named to the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and became Chairman of the New York Federal Reserve in December of 2012; she has also served as Chairwoman of NYC & Company, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; and

WHEREAS, A frequent speaker on non-profit management and fundraising, Emily Kernan Rafferty has been a long-time contributor to numerous arts and inter-museum organizations; she has been a member of ArtTable, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Women in Financial Development, and the Development Committee of the American Association of Museums; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Emily Kernan Rafferty has served on the Steering Committee of the Association for a Better New York, the Women's Forum, and Media NYC 2020; and

WHEREAS, Emily Kernan Rafferty's dedication to helping her community is further illustrated by her many volunteer activities; she is a lifetime honorary trustee of the Convent of the Sacred Heart School in New

York, and has also served for more than 10 years as Board Vice President of the Independent School Chairmen Association; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of countless awards and honors, Emily Kernan

Rafferty received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Pace University in 2014, as well as past honorary degrees from Fairfield University and the College of New Rochelle; furthermore, she received NYU's Lewis Rudin Award for Exemplary Service to New York City, and has been named one of New York City's 100 most influential women by CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS; and

WHEREAS, Emily Kernan Rafferty was the 2007 honoree of ArtTable, a group of leading women in cultural affairs, and has earned both a Special Service Award for the Museum from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and a Community and Public Service "Emmy" Award from the National Academy for Television Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, John, their son and daughter, and two grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor President Emily Kernan Rafferty upon the occasion of her retirement after 39 years of distinguished service to the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Emily Kernan Rafferty.