

2015-J507

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee upon the occasion of its 40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held March 15, 2015

WHEREAS, "FAITH, HISTORY, TRIBUTE & REMEMBRANCE" is the core of the Annual Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade held on the 3rd Sunday in March; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee celebrates the Faith of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland; despite religious persecution, famine, colonial occupation and political oppression, their ancestors kept the Faith alive by their indomitable spirit against the British occupier, who banned the celebration of mass in their churches, arrested and harassed the priests and during the Penal Days, the faithful had to gather at "Mass Rocks" in the glens; and

WHEREAS, The Faith of St. Patrick was transmitted and transplanted by the millions of Irish immigrants who came to America and the first Bishop of Brooklyn was Bishop John Loughlin from County Down, Ireland; they join the Faith, with their present Bishop of Brooklyn, The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio in preserving that Faith and Catholic education with its Irish roots in the Diocese of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, The Parade was founded in 1975 in preparation for their Nation's Bicentennial and its ongoing theme has been The Battle of Brooklyn, the 1st battle of the American Revolutionary War and the heroic role the "Maryland 400" Brigade played at The Old Stone House, holding off the British long enough for Washington's Army to cross the East River to Manhattan, saving his army and their fledgling Republic; and

WHEREAS, The intertwined histories of Ireland and America, a rich and unique history which spans the contributions of Erin's sons and daughters to the independence, formation and development of the United

States; Irish Americans served with great distinction, honor and heroism in all of the wars, from Washington's Irish generals in the American Revolutionary War, to Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish Brigade in the Civil War, to the famed fighting Irish 69th Regiment; and

WHEREAS, The Parade pays tribute to Erin's sons and daughters, both past and present, for their vast contributions to the church, to their military and uniformed services, to public and civic life, to labor and the law, to education and healthcare, and to their Borough, City, State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This year's theme is: Celebrating our Past, Present and Future; the 2015 Parade is dedicated to all of our past Parade Honorees, both living and deceased; and

WHEREAS, The Parade will forever be "IN REMEMBRANCE OF" the heroes and victims of 9/11-WTC, those whose spirit shines in the darkness on the 13th Anniversary of the attack: 43 FDNY Fire Fighters; 23 NYPD Police Officers; 2 EMS Officers; 3 NYC Court Officers; 37 Port Authority Police, and 37 Port Authority Personnel; and

WHEREAS, This year's Grand Marshal is John Dunleavy, Chairman of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, The St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates the spirit, purity and strength of Irish culture and its fine traditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee upon the occasion of its 40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2015, and to pay just tribute to this year's Grand Marshal, John Dunleavy, Chairman of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Aides to the Grand Marshal: Bridget Maguire (United Irish Counties of New York), Patrick Coughlin (Irish Culture/Clann Eireann Pipe Band), Patrick Doherty (Grand Council/United Emerald Societies), Noreen Stefens-Alvarez (Education-AP PS 207), Peter DeAngelis (Aide At Large-Kings

County Veterans), Peggy Casey (Gaelic Sports/NY Young Irelands Camogie Club), Thomas Layden (Uniformed Services), Noreen Adair (Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Kings County Board), Steven Kiernan (Ancient Order of Hibernians Kings County Board); and all the citizens of Brooklyn, participating in this important memorable, cultural and civic event; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grand Marshal John Dunleavy, and his Aides and the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee.