

## 2015-K952

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending John W. Ryan upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 82nd Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2016

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of Irish people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and provides an opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to commend John W. Ryan upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 82nd Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is a Catholic, Irish American Fraternal Organization founded on May 4, 1836, in New York City; active across the United States, its mission is to foster and preserve Irish culture, while standing up for issues affecting the Irish community; and

WHEREAS, For 82 years, the Huntington Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Parade, Long Island's oldest and largest parade, has remained dedicated to promoting Irish heritage, traditions, family, and patriotic values; and

WHEREAS, This year the Huntington AOH has chosen its longtime member and Past President, John "Jack" W. Ryan to proudly lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade past tens of thousands of spectators along New York Avenue and Main Street; and

WHEREAS, Jack W. Ryan was born in Colonie, New York, to Elmer and Ida Ryan; he attended Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School where he developed an appreciation for his Catholic faith and his Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Jack W. Ryan was able to trace his Irish ancestry back three generations to his great, great, Grandfather, Dennis Ryan who came from the County of Tipperary, in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Colonie Central High School, Jack W. Ryan attended the College of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, at Syracuse University where he graduated in 1972; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, Jack W. Ryan understood the importance and need to conserve our environment and natural resources, and subsequently, he worked for a number of international forest products companies whose management policy focused on reforestation and the conservation of the environment; and

WHEREAS, From 2005-2008, Jack W. Ryan held the position of AOH Division 4 President in Huntington, New York; throughout his tenure he expanded the Hibernian Food Drive Program which provides the much needed food to our local food pantries; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Jack W. Ryan serves as AOH Suffolk County Board President and Chairman of Charities and Missions, where he focuses on expanding his vision of feeding the hungry in Suffolk County through the John Hennessey Memorial Hunger Program; and

WHEREAS, For his incredible work and dedication to feeding the hungry, Jack W. Ryan was honored by the Suffolk County Hibernians and named Suffolk County's Aide to the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2013; in addition, the Huntington Hibernians recognized him as the Hibernian Brother of the Year in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Jack W. Ryan is also an active member of the Hibernian Festival Singers, a choral group which for the past two years has performed in Carnegie Hall, raising funds and awareness for Hope House, of Port Jefferson, New York, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is

to help troubled youths in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Jack W. Ryan is an active member of the Northport Kiwanis Club, Crab Meadow Men's Golf Club and Nokado School of Self Defense; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend John W. Ryan upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 82nd Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John W. Ryan.