

## 2015-J4319

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy on May 10, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy to be celebrated at its 17th Annual Evening of Mercy Gala on May 10, 2016, at The Yale Club of New York City; and

WHEREAS, The Sisters of Mercy work passionately to eliminate poverty, the widespread denial of human rights, the degradation of earth, the increase in violence and racism, the continued oppression of women, the abuse of children, the mistreatment of immigrants and the lack of solidarity among people and nations; and

WHEREAS, Gerard McCaffery began his long and distinguished career as a houseparent in a group home for teenage boys called Walkabout; and

WHEREAS, Gerard McCaffery then furthered his education, earning his master's degree in Business Administration from New York University Stern School of Business in 1986; he then served as President/CEO of Seamen's Society for Children and Families, a foster care agency based on Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, Since 2006, Gerard McCaffery has held the position of President/CEO of MercyFirst; founded in 1894, by the Sisters of Mercy,

MercyFirst has over 600 employees working in 16 locations in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Together, these programs serve over 3,000 children, youth and families each year through preventive services, family foster care and adoption services, group homes and mother-child residences, immigrant youth programs, medical and mental health services, and specialized residential treatment programs on their Syosset Campus; MercyFirst is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and is Sanctuary Certified; and

WHEREAS, Gerard McCaffery is a vital member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, a state-wide coalition of child welfare and juvenile justice agencies in New York State; in addition, he is a participant of the Collaborative for Children and Families Board of Directors, a newly designated Children's Health Home serving the New York City metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man also enjoys mentoring students who attend the Center for Nonprofit Leaders at Fordham University; 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 Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy on May 10, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gerard McCaffery.