

2011-J2902

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 35th Annual Parade of Three Kings Day

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York 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 35th Annual Parade of Three Kings Day, the Feast of the Epiphany, to be celebrated in East Harlem, New York on Friday, January 6, 2012; and

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion marks the end of the Christmas season with this particular festivity, a tradition in Latin American culture marking the day the Three Kings brought gifts to baby Jesus; and WHEREAS, The colorful and lively celebration is also known as Epiphany and marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas; thousands of children are expected to march in this event; and

WHEREAS, Leading the parade is poet, playwright and performance artist Jesus Papoleto Melendez; joining him as honorary kings include: composer and singer Johnny Colon, of the Johnny Colon Orchestra; author Nicholasa Mohr; and writer, essayist Esmerelda Santiago; and

WHEREAS, The Spanish speaking world marks Three Kings Day, an ancient celebration that commemorates the visit of Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem; and

WHEREAS, Each country in Latin America has its particular customs, many of which have been transported and somewhat adapted to Latino homes across New York State as well as throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dominican and Puerto Rican children leave dry grass for the camels under their beds; in Argentina and Mexico, they leave their shoes accompanied with grass or a letter outside their rooms or under the tree; everywhere, the kids, at least the well-behaved ones, wake up to gifts from the Magi; and

WHEREAS, The treasured values of families united and wholesome enter-

tainment for all ages reflected in this event help to foster community spirit and cooperation, as well as preserve the beliefs, ideals and values which is a tradition for these United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 35th Annual Parade of Three Kings Day.