

2009-J2933

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 52nd Annual German-American Steuben Parade

WHEREAS, The German-American Steuben Parade is a time for all to celebrate the rich heritage of the German people, unlimited in their contributions to this greatly diverse land of ours; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 52nd Annual German-American Steuben Parade on Saturday, September 19, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The theme of this year's parade is "Freedom Without Walls," to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which would not have been possible without the active leadership of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The parade is named in honor and memory of General (Baron) Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, the great Prussian military strategist, who was extremely critical to the victory by George Washington's forces over the British army during America's War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, The New York Yankees will be presenting their own float in the parade for the first time, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Yankee and German-American great Lou Gehrig's famous "luckiest man on the face of the earth" speech; and

WHEREAS, For the first time, the Steuben Parade will feature a "Continental Division," to include German-American groups from all over the United States to participate, helping to make New York city a center of German-American culture nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Grand Marshals for the parade are: Congressman Michael McMahon (Staten Island/Brooklyn); Mr. Christian Haub, Chairman, The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company/A&P; Linda Schmidt, Fox 5 TV news repor-

ter and anchor; and Theobald "Ted" Dengler, Esq., a 1957 founding member of the Parade Committee; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 U. S. Census and its 2005 update list Americans of German ancestry as the largest ethnic group in the United States; in 24 of America's 50 states, Germans are the single largest ethnic group; and WHEREAS, In New York, 28 of the state's 62 counties list Germans as the single largest ethnic group; the German-American Steuben Parade attracts visitors from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other overseas nations, as well as from many American states and throughout Canada; and WHEREAS, Aside from General von Steuben and this year's Grand Marshals, prominent German-Americans include President Dwight Eisenhower, Babe Ruth, Albert Einstein, Mayor Robert Wagner, Lou Gehrig, Levi Strauss, Dr. Guenther Blobel (a New Yorker and recent Nobel prize winner), John Kluge, Augustus Busch, Walter Cronkite and many others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the 52nd Annual German-American Steuben Parade, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve and yet effect that patrimony of freedom which is our American heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 52nd Annual German-American Steuben Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the German-American Steuben Parade's General Chairman Lars Halter, and to this year's aforementioned Grand Marshals.