

2009-J541

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee upon the occasion of its 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

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, We celebrate the faith of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, despite religious persecution, famine, colonial occupation and political oppression; our ancestors kept the faith alive by their indomitable spirit against the British occupier who banned the celebration of Mass in their churches and arrested and harassed the priests 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; the first Bishop of Brooklyn was Bishop John Loughlin from County Down, Ireland; we join in faith, with our 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 our Nation's Bicentennial; its on-going 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 our fledgling Republic; and

WHEREAS, The intertwined histories of Ireland and America are rich and unique histories which span 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 our 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, Our Parade theme this year is "Cluichi na nGael"/Games of the Gael in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary of "Cumann Luthchleas Gael"/GAA founded in Thurles, County Tipperary in 1884; today, the Games of the Gael Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic Football and Handball are played worldwide; the New York Championship games are played in Gaelic Park in the Bronx from March through November, and in years past, in Brooklyn's Prospect Park beside Donegal Hill, making its location a "home away from home," the place where newly arrived Irish Immigrants gathered in the 1800s and 1900s, and played their Gaelic games, their music, danced a set or two, and told their stories; and

WHEREAS, The Donegal Hill Reunion of Irish immigrants and their descendants will take place in Prospect Park on Saturday, June 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The 2009 Parade is dedicated to the memory and spirit of Annie Moore, Ellis Island's first immigrant, born in County Cork and along with her two younger brothers, Anthony and Philip, boarded the SS Nevada in Queenstown, now Cobb, on December 20, 1881; they spent 12 days at sea before arriving in New York on her 15th birthday, joining her parents who had immigrated two years earlier to make a better life for their family; Annie and her brothers were processed through Ellis Island on January 1, 1892; and

WHEREAS, We pause and say "An Ave" and remember Danny Mills who was part of Farrells Bar for over 40 years, a quintessential "Brooklyn Guy" and a friend to all; 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 include: 343 FDNY Fire Fighters; 23 NYPD Police Officers; 2 EMPS Officers; 3 NYC Court Officers; 37 PA Police and 37 PA Personnel; we pause to remember the 8th Anniversary of the attack; and

WHEREAS, This year, we have two special Parade honorees; NYC Commissioner Brian Andersson and Richard Moylan, President of The Green-Wood Cemetery; these two men have helped over the years to preserve and highlight the intertwined histories of Ireland and America; Commissioner Brian Andersson, recipient of the Annie Moore Award for his untiring efforts in preserving the history of Ellis Island and its first immigrant, Annie Moore; and Richard Moylan, recipient of the Irish Korean War Veterans Award for his great achievement and unveiling of their Memorial in historic Green-Wood and his continued efforts in honoring Irish patriots buried there; and

WHEREAS, This year's Grand Marshal is John Riordan, the 2008 President of the New York Gaelic Athletic Association; he is a dedicated Kerryman who has promoted the Games of the Gael since his arrival in New York in 1964; he is known from the East Coast to the West Coast for his untiring efforts on behalf of the National Games of Ireland and is involved in every aspect of the GAA, as well as in the Kerry Football Club and the County Kerry Association; John and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of Kathleen and Irene, and another special young man in their lives is Billy Murphy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberation to commend the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee on its 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2009, and to honor Grand Marshal, John Riordan, 2008 President of the New York Gaelic Athletic Association; and the aides to the Grand Marshal, Lieutenant James Woods, New York Police Department/Brooklyn South; Barbara Snow, Vice-Principal, PS 119; Kathleen Collins, Gaelic Sports; Anna Henry, Co. Derry Society; Sean Casey Scaglione, Columbus Council Pipes & Drums;

Patricia Sullivan-Jakubauskas, LAOH; Hugh Harvey, AOH; Patrick Flynn, Grand Council/SD Emerald Society; and Parade Chairperson, Kathleen McDonagh; 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 Commissioner Brian Andersson, Richard Moylan, John Riordan and his aides, the Brooklyn Irish American Parade Committee, and the aforementioned honorees.