

2009-J5086

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Dennis J. Murray upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess on May 11, 2010

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 devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Dennis J. Murray upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess at its 42nd Annual Meritorious Service Awards Breakfast to be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at the Holiday Inn, Fishkill, New York; and

WHEREAS, A man of singular distinction, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence, and diligent leadership in his unwavering service to both his community and profession; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray was appointed President and Professor of Public Policy at Marist College in 1979; during his esteemed tenure as President, he has guided the College through an exceptional period of growth; enrollments have doubled, many new academic programs have been established and the academic profile of the entering freshmen has risen significantly; in addition, a significant amount has been invested in the campus, resulting in new academic buildings, student residences, a Student Center, as well as an expanded recreation center and a state-of-the-art digital library; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has also forged numerous community and

corporate relationships that have greatly benefited the College; early in his tenure at Marist, he recognized the important role that information technology would play in enhancing the teaching and learning process; thanks to a long-time partnership with the IBM Corporation, Marist has become one of the nation's most technologically advanced liberal arts colleges; today, this sophisticated computing environment is helping Marist students gain the knowledge and skills they will need to be competitive in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Marist is increasingly recognized as a national leader in higher education; in 2006, THE PRINCETON REVIEW and FORBES named Marist one of the 25 "Most Connected Campuses" in America, alongside Cornell, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania; the College was also selected by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the nation's leading colleges to encourage character development; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Marist is listed in THE PRINCETON REVIEW's THE BEST 361 COLLEGES in the country and US NEWS & WORLD REPORT ranked Marist in the top tier of colleges and universities in the Northeast; the College's AACSB-accredited School of Management is also ranked among THE BEST 237 BUSINESS SCHOOLS by THE PRINCETON REVIEW; and

WHEREAS, A nationally recognized educator and administrator, Dr. Dennis J. Murray served as an advisor to the NBC television network and hosted a nationally broadcast series on higher education; he has served on the American Council on Education's Commission on International Education and Commission on Leadership Development; he also was a member of the Board of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities; he served four years as an alumni representative to the Board of Trustees of the California State University and Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray is the editor of three books in the field of government and public affairs and is the author of two books on non-profit management, HOW TO EVALUATE YOUR FUND-RAISING PROGRAM and THE GUARANTEED FUND-RAISING SYSTEM, which have been used in more than 3,500

organizations throughout the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Despite his busy professional life, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray currently serves on the boards of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, which oversees the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; he also was on the Vassar Brothers Hospital Board for more than 18 years, and served as Chairman of its Foundation Board; he previously was a member of the Boards of the Bank of New York's Regional Board, United Way and American Heart Association; and WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray's significant contributions to the fields of education and community service have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Franciscan Award from the Sisters of St. Francis and the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League; in 1996, he received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal at a ceremony which also honored Queen Noor of Jordan, Lea Rabin of Israel and former Marist Trustee Frances Reese, the founder of the environmental movement in America; and

WHEREAS, A native Californian, Dr. Dennis J. Murray received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach and his Master's degree and Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his appointment at Marist, Dr. Dennis J. Murray taught at the USC School of International and Public Affairs, and served as Director of University Relations and Executive Assistant to the President at California State University, Long Beach and as Vice President for Development at Whittier College; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Marilyn, and their children, Marian and Michael, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Dr. Dennis J. Murray has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Dennis J. Murray upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess on May 11, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Dennis J. Murray.