

2009-K1405

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the State of Israel upon the occasion of its 62nd Anniversary and commemorating the 2010 Salute to Israel Parade

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, as a reaffirmation of its continued support of the State of Israel and the principles upon which it stands, to congratulate the people of Israel upon the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel; and WHEREAS, Israel's Declaration of Independence, which was signed May 14, 1948, Iyar 5, 5708 on the Jewish calendar, embodies the rich tradition of individual freedom evident throughout Jewish history and embraces many of the same values expressed in our own United States Declaration of Independence; the principles of checks and balances, freedom of speech and assembly, combined with a respect for human rights, equal justice and free elections, are but a few of the democratic ideals shared by both societies; and

WHEREAS, The democratic systems of government and pioneering histories of both peoples created a bond and a mutual respect between our two nations from the beginning; President Harry S. Truman offered official United States recognition to Israel just 11 minutes after it had declared its independence as a sovereign state; and

WHEREAS, Israel is, just as are our own nation and the State of New York, much more than a piece of geography; it is a state of mind, a gift of a great and ancient heritage, and a commitment to the values of liberty, democracy and justice in fulfillment of the responsibilities of that heritage; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 62 years, Israel has succeeded in making its arid and semi-arid regions productive; it has been, from the beginning, a nation of development; its people have excelled in every venue and every profession; and

WHEREAS, As a nation and as a people, Israel exemplifies the essence of that which is at once the most ancient and the most modern -- the will to live and to achieve; its courage, its perseverance in the face of many obstacles, and its dedication to democracy and heritage are well-known; its future shines with a potential which is as enormous and

illustrious as is its past; and

WHEREAS, From the outset New York State and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect as well as many scientific, educational and business initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Each year since 1964 New York has hosted the Salute to Israel Parade on New York City's Fifth Avenue; featuring more than 100,000 marchers, it is the largest event in the world celebrating the Anniversary of Israel's Independence and honors the history and heritage, as well as the spirit, of an indomitable people; and

WHEREAS, Truly a heartfelt expression by the American Jewish community of solidarity with the State of Israel and its people, this year's

Salute to Israel Parade will take place on Sunday, May 23, 2010; and

WHEREAS, As Israel proudly celebrates the 62nd Anniversary of its establishment, observing Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, on April 19-20, 2010, corresponding to Iyar 5-6, 5770, and as New York once again hosts the Salute to Israel Parade, it is the sense of this Legislative Body, on behalf of the people of the State of New York, to commend the State of Israel for its remarkable accomplishments in building a new State and society which embodies the ideals of democracy, justice, independence and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and commend the State of Israel upon the occasion of its 62nd

Anniversary, to commemorate the Salute to Israel Parade 2010, and to join with the people of the State of New York in sharing with the people of Israel, and of all nations, the fervent hope and profound desire for an enduring peace; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to His Excellency Michael Oren, Ambassador of Israel.