

## 2011-K140

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Joseph R. Heppes upon the occasion of being named Grand Marshal of the 2011 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 13, 2011

WHEREAS, Saint Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Irish people throughout these United States; and

WHEREAS, A Saint Patrick's Day parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and highlights the many contributions and historical accomplishments of the Irish community in this diverse land; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Joseph R. Heppes upon the occasion of being named Grand Marshal of the 2011 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Son of John Philip and Mary Ellen Monaghan Heppes, Joseph Ronald Heppes, affectionately known as Ron, was born and raised in the Bronx; his maternal grandparents, Patrick and Mary Ellen Bourke Monaghan, emigrated from County West Meath and County Tipperary to the United States in the late 19th Century; and

WHEREAS, Ron Heppes is a graduate of St. Angela Merici grade school and All Hallows High School; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation from high school and the outbreak of the Korean War, Ron Heppes enlisted in the United States Navy where he served four years; he then attended the New York Institute of Technology for one year and then became a member of the New York State Police in 1955; he retired in 1978 as an Investigator for the Bureau of Criminal Investigation; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Ron Heppes worked as an Investigator for the Orange County Legal Aid Society for a short time before being hired as

the Career Criminal Unit Coordinator for the Orange County DA's Office; he held that position until his retirement in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Ron Heppes is a charter member of The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Division 4 which was formed in October of 1993, in Middletown, New York; he has served in many offices for Division 4 including President, Vice President, Treasurer and Marshal; and

WHEREAS, Ron Heppes currently serves on many committees for Division 4 in particular the Golf/Dinner Dance fundraisers, whose funds are allotted to various charities and scholarships for local Catholic schools; he is currently the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Orange County AOH Board; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Ron Heppes has worked diligently to get many journal ads for the Parade Committee; he was elected for three terms as a member of the Middletown City Council as an alderman for the Fourth Ward; during his tenure, he was instrumental in bringing the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade to Middletown in 1999 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Ron Heppes has been actively involved in many organizations in Orange County including Board of Directors/Treasurer and Coach of Middletown Little League, Coach for Mt. Carmel CYO Basketball, Board member for Orange County CYO Athletic Committee, John S. Burke Catholic High School Parents Organization and Booster Club, Middletown High School Football Booster Club, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parent's Guild, Catechist in the Mt. Carmel Religious Education Program, and Middletown Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 54 years, Catherine Sweeney, and their five sons, Joseph R. Jr., John, Eugene, Paul and Robert, as well as their 12 grandchildren, Sarah, Ben, Arielle, Brenna, John, Laura, Connor, Grace, Sean, Isabella, Clare and Caitlin, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is not, as many believe, a celebration of

the Patron Saint of Ireland's birth but of his death; and

WHEREAS, The St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates the spirit, purity and strength of the Irish Culture and its fine traditions; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Joseph R. Heppes upon the occasion of being named Grand Marshal of the 2011 Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 13, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joseph R. Heppes.