

2011-J2563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Annual Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Saint Nicholas in Flushing, New York, October 6-9, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those events which serve to enhance the cultural enrichment of the State of New York and preserve the heritage of Greek-Americans; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Annual Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Saint Nicholas in Flushing, New York, to be celebrated October 6-9, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Greek Festival has become an Annual tradition for the church since 1971, when St. Nicholas Church was the first community to sponsor an ethnic festival in the New York metropolitan area; and WHEREAS, Greek music will set the mood of being in an Athenian cafe or on a Grecian isle; along with Greek foods, the foods of Cyprus will be offered; traditional Greek pastries such as baklava, and loukoumades will be available; there will also be vendors selling a variety of authentic Greek merchandise; and

WHEREAS, Visitors of the festival can also tour the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Saint Nicholas; and

WHEREAS, Erected in 1971, Saint Nicholas Church was cited by the Queens Chamber of Commerce for its architecture; the church was designated The Shrine Church in 1972 when Archbishop Iakovos received at St. Nicholas the relics from the grave of St. Nicholas in Bari, Italy; these relics have been enshrined in a reliquary; the walls of the church hold six 30x12-foot panels depicting scenes from the Bible; and

WHEREAS, The Greek festival at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of

Saint Nicholas welcomes everyone to come for a taste of Greece and Cyprus in Flushing, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Greek Festival is a cherished event which provides a uniquely warm environment in which to enjoy the music, dance, arts, crafts, flavors, colors, laughter and love of Greek heritage; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize those important events which remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Events which celebrate diversity and peace contribute to fulfilling our Nation's great legacy of equality opportunity for all, and do so profoundly enhance our shared commitment to freedom and justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Annual Greek Festival at the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Saint Nicholas in Flushing, New York, October 6-9, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Greek Orthodox Shrine Church of Saint Nicholas, Flushing, New York.