

2011-J3095

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church of Brooklyn, New York, to be celebrated on February 3, 2012

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church of Brooklyn, New York, to be celebrated with a Dinner Dance on February 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, The Greek Orthodox Community of Kimisis Theotokou was founded in the heart of the Depression; in 1931, a small group of immigrants, new Americans determined to keep their Greek Orthodox faith alive in their new country, sacrificed to establish a house of worship and a community center; and

WHEREAS, The first home of Kimisis Theotokou parish, then known as the Greek Orthodox Community of Bay Ridge, was located on 4th Avenue, near 32nd Street; its founder and first president of the Parish Council was Panayiotis Bounacos; in 1932 the parishioners, led by Reverend George Menexopoulos, sold the original property and purchased 239 17th Street; in 1933 Reverend Simeon Emanuel joined the community and, along with the Parish Council, was instrumental in finalizing the purchase of the church's present home at 224 18th Street; and

WHEREAS, Kimisis Theotokou began to grow and to be known for its ministry and commitment to the community; organizations, events and traditions which continue to this day flourished including the annual

dance and journal begun in 1931; the Philoptochos Society was organized by the women of the church in November 1933 and continues to be the church's most active society; the choir and Sunday and Afternoon Schools were added in 1933; a Board of Trustees was elected in March 1934; the annual magazine, THE HERALD published its first edition in 1935; the youth league and The Chiaki Adelphotita of Aghia Markella, a society dedicated in helping those in need, were started in 1936; and, in 1937, the Archdiocese of North and South America, under the leadership of Archbishop Athenagoras, officially recognized Kimisis Theotokou as a member church of the Archdiocese; and

WHEREAS, The focus of the community of Kimisis Theotokou has always been its children; a Greek Orthodox Youth Association (GOYA) was organized and, as the Kimisis Theotokou community grew, it became more evident that a school was a necessity and by the 1960s the concept of an educational center became a reality; and

WHEREAS, Property was purchased and following the demolition of the buildings on it, a groundbreaking ceremony took place in June 1964 and, in September 1966, Soterios Ellenas Parochial School opened its doors; and

WHEREAS, Through the years Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church and Soterios Ellenas Parochial School have thrived ably led by outstanding spiritual leaders and educators; the chapels of Saint Irene and Aghia Markella have been consecrated along with many other renovations and improvements to the church's edifice and facilities; Soterios Ellenas Parochial School has graduated many classes; bible classes have been invigorated; and the community's senior citizens have felt the comfort of Kimisis Theotokou's generous parish; and

WHEREAS, Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of

enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church of Brooklyn, New York, to be observed on February 3, 2012, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church , Brooklyn, New York.