

2011-J3413

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Edward Rice upon the occasion of his designation as a Gael of the Year of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 3, 2012

WHEREAS, St. 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 St. 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 honor Edward Rice upon the occasion of being named a Gael of the Year of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on Saturday, March 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Paddy McCarthy will also be honored as a Gael of the Year; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade will honor Kevin O'Brien as Grand Marshal of the parade and Thomas Flood and Eileen Long-Chelales as Honorary Grand Marshals; and

WHEREAS, Also being honored as Deputy Grand Marshals at this year's Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade are Maureen Donachie, Mary Ellen Murray, Maurice Landers, Ralph Reed, Richard Keane, Mark C. Edwards, Laura Sporny, Sister Agnes White, C.S.J., Eileen McDonald, and Michael Charles Schramm, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, All of this year's honorees are fittingly being recognized for their service in their individual fields to the Irish and Irish-Americans throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice was born in Queens, New York on March 23, 1952;

he is a second generation Irish-American, tracing his ancestry to counties Fermanagh and Kildare on his mother's side and to County Louth on his father's side; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice attended St. Mel's Elementary School in Flushing and St. Helena's High School in the Bronx; he graduated from Marist College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a minor in Spanish; since 1976, he has served with the New York City Department of Education as a bilingual classroom teacher, and later as an attendance teacher; and

WHEREAS, An awareness of his Irish heritage and culture was sparked when, during a year of study in Spain, he found time to visit Ireland; he revisited Ireland in 1990 on the Irish Peoples' Tour of the occupied Northeast part of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1976 as a founding member of the reconstituted Division 15 in Whitestone; since then, he has held positions on the Division, County, and State levels of the A.O.H. and is currently serving his third term as President of the Queens County Board; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the A.O. H., Ed Rice never turned down membership in other Irish and Catholic organizations when asked to join; when he became an Attendance Teacher in Community School District 27 in 1988, he was asked by the Founder and dearly departed "Captain" of the Queens County St. Patrick's Parade Committee, James Conway Sullivan, to come to a Parade meeting; a few years later, he became Financial Secretary, a position he held until 2011; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice became a member of the Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn after being appointed New York State A.O.H. Commodore John Barry Chairman which brought him into contact with a rich assortment of

Irish community activists including Mary Nolan, President of the club, and went on to serve as its Recording Secretary for almost twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice became the President of the Catholic Teachers Association of the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2008 and is still ably serving as its President; and

WHEREAS, Also a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, Edward Rice is a member of the South Ozone Park Council 2236 and a member of the St. Mel's Men's Club; when he was on sabbatical, he took up acting at Queensborough Community College, and most excitingly, he is greatly looking forward to his marriage to Maureen Leahy in August; and

WHEREAS, Edward Rice truly embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and nation; 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 honor Edward Rice upon the occasion of his designation as a Gael of the Year of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on March 3, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Edward Rice.