

2011-J3424

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kathleen Alcock upon the occasion of being named the Grand Marshal of the 16th Annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade on March 24, 2012

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, Rockville Centre's St. Patrick's Parade was established on March 22, 1997 and remains dedicated to promoting Irish heritage and culture, family and patriotic values; to promoting and annually financially supporting a national, an Irish, and a Rockville Centre focused charity; and to contributing to the good and welfare of the residents and businesses of Rockville Centre; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kathleen Alcock, an amazing woman and ardent supporter of the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade, noting her tremendous efforts in support of the Parade, upon the occasion of being named the Grand Marshal of the 16th Annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade on Saturday, March 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Since the Parade's beginning Kathleen Alcock has been there lending support and guidance and always asking "what can I do to help"; she is a wonderful ambassador to all that come into Rockville Centre and her "Little Irish Shop" Kathleen's of Donegal is a warm and friendly business which contributes significantly to making Rockville Centre's business community the place to shop on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, As Kathleen's of Donegal is celebrating 25 years in Rockville Centre, it is fitting that Kathleen Alcock be honored as the first woman and 16th Grand Marshal of the "Parade that Cares and Shares"; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Alcock has been a staunch supporter of the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade since its inception in 1997; her countless

contributions to the success of the Parade, her charitable work, her family values, her love of life and her tireless dedication to serving her country, her church and her community reflect the true essence of the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade which celebrates both our Irish heritage and our pride in being American; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Alcock was born in County Donegal, the oldest of three children; in 1958, at age 19, she set sail to America and an uncertain future; during the next three years, she lived with her aunt in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and worked in the hotel industry; in 1961, she left for New York City and another uncertain future, working for the next four years in Schrafft's Restaurant in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, After returning to Ireland just before Christmas in 1965, she met her husband, Thomas Alcock, by chance on a trip to England to meet friends; they married in February 1967, and this year celebrated their 45th Anniversary; they are the proud parents of three grown children and have 12 grandchildren with another one expected in March 2012, just in time for the step off of this year's Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1970s, Kathleen Alcock decided to follow her dream and opened her own Irish handcraft and gift shop business as an extension to her own home in County Donegal, allowing her to run her home and business at the same time; in the early 1980s, she opened her second Irish craft shop in Donegal town after which she became involved

in organizing tours and events for various Irish American associations and produced a visual travelogue of Donegal's history, scenery, and folk traditions for tourists; and

WHEREAS, While visiting New York in 1986 to promote her completed video of Donegal, Kathleen Alcock visited Rockville Centre where she instantly felt a connection to both the town and the people, an immediate connection which led her to open Kathleen's of Donegal at 10 North Park Avenue in Rockville Centre in March 1987; Kathleen's of Donegal will joyfully celebrate its 25th year of being in business in March 2012, again just in time for the step off of the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade; and

WHEREAS, During Kathleen's of Donegal's long tenure in Rockville Centre, Kathleen Alcock has proudly presented a hand knit sweater to the late President Ronald Reagan, Belleek porcelain china to former Presi-

dent Bill Clinton, hand knit sweaters to New York Governors and traditional Irish walking sticks to the Grand Marshals of both the New York City and the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parades; and

WHEREAS, Each year as we honor St. Patrick, whose life mirrored a deep and abiding example of the challenges of sainthood, we are mindful of the proud history of the Irish people and their struggle against oppression, religious intolerance and political, social and economic barriers; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates the spirit, purity and strength of the Irish culture and its fine traditions and provides an opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice to serve as a Grand Marshal of the 2012 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kathleen Alcock embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kathleen Alcock upon the occasion of being named Grand Marshal of the 16th Annual Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade on March 24, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kathleen Alcock.