

2015-J487

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Stephen J. Cassidy upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 40th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 7, 2015

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 Stephen J. Cassidy upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 40th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be celebrated on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at Rockaway Park, Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, Stephen J. Cassidy is the President of the Uniformed Firefighters' Association (UFA), the nation's largest local firefighters' union; he is responsible for representing the needs and identifying the critical issues affecting 9,000 active and 13,800 retired New York City firefighters; he is further tasked with ensuring the health and safety of these brave men and women who protect eight million New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Born of a proud Irish heritage, this dedicated leader spent much of his career with Engine Company No. 236 in the East New York section of Brooklyn, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in New York City; it was here he developed his passion for advocating for the rights of his fellow firefighters; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Stephen J. Cassidy was elected President of the UFA after proudly serving as one of New York's Bravest for over 15 years; he holds the unique distinction of being the only UFA President to ever be

elected directly from the field; and

WHEREAS, In addition to tirelessly fulfilling his duties as President, Stephen J. Cassidy serves on the FDNY Pension Board, and is Treasurer of the Municipal Labor Committee, an organization which negotiates and provides health care benefits for all New York City municipal unions; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Stephen J. Cassidy serves as a Vice President on the Executive Board of the NYC Central Labor Council, a nonprofit labor membership organization devoted to supporting, advancing, and advocating for the working people of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Stephen J. Cassidy has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Stephen J. Cassidy is the Chairman of both the UFA Widows' and Children's Fund and the Thomas R. Elsasser Fund which continues to actively support the families of firefighters who die in both the line of duty and in non-line-of-duty incidents; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Stephen J. Cassidy was appointed to the National Advisory Council, and the following year was selected by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board (Firefighting) for a term of four years; and

WHEREAS, A frequent contributor to many media publications, including THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS and THE NEW YORK POST, Stephen J. Cassidy also appears regularly in public, and on television and radio to advocate for the rights of firefighters; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Stephen J. Cassidy has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Theresa, and their two children, Rachel and Raymond, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Stephen J. Cassidy 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 Stephen J. Cassidy upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 40th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephen J. Cassidy.