

2015-J785

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Father Stephen R. Donnelly upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 81st Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 8, 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 Irish people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and provides an opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to honor Father Stephen R. Donnelly upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 81st Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held Sunday, March 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 4, Huntington, New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 81st Annual Grand Marshal's Ball on Friday, March 6, 2015, at The Crescent Club, Huntington, New York, and to pay special recognition to Father Stephen R. Donnelly, the 2015 Grand Marshal; and

WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is a Catholic, Irish American Fraternal organization founded on May 4, 1836, in New York City; active across the United States, its mission is to foster and preserve Irish culture, while standing up for issues affecting the Irish community; and

WHEREAS, For 81 years, the Huntington Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Patrick's Day Parade has remained dedicated to promoting Irish heritage,

traditions, family, and patriotic values; and

WHEREAS, An Associate Pastor of St. Patrick's R.C. Church since June 23, 2010, Father Stephen R. Donnelly currently serves as the Huntington Ancient Order of Hibernians chaplain; and

WHEREAS, When he graduated from Deer Park High School in 1973, Stephen R. Donnelly aspired to be involved in law enforcement and earned a degree in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Unable to find employment within the criminal justice field, he accepted a position with an A&P supermarket; after 15 years serving as a manager, Stephen R. Donnelly began his theological studies in September of 1991 and was ordained in June of 1997; and

WHEREAS, Father Stephen R. Donnelly then began assignments in New Hyde Park, North Merrick and Sound Beach before coming to Huntington in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Father Stephen R. Donnelly embodies all of the best traits of an exemplary grand marshal: a devout Irish Catholic committed to uplifting Huntington's residents and local Irish culture; and

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

WHEREAS, 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 this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Father Stephen R. Donnelly upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 81st Annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 8, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Stephen R. Donnelly.