

## 2015-J931

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Colonel Joseph D. Davidson upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 22nd Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 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 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 opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Colonel Joseph D. Davidson upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 22nd Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2015; and

WHEREAS, A native New Yorker, Joseph D. Davidson was born to John J. and Kathleen Patricia (McNally) Davidson, in Congers, New York; his maternal grandparents were born in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh, Ireland, and his paternal grandmother is from County Cork, Ireland; and  
WHEREAS, Joseph D. Davidson graduated from Clarkstown North High School, New City, New York, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the State University of New York at New Paltz; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating, Joseph D. Davidson continued his education by receiving both a Master in Military History from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson serves his country as a member of

the United States Army; throughout his tenure as a Cavalry officer, he has held a variety of both command and staff positions in combat brigades throughout the United States and overseas, including multiple combat deployments to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Prior to assuming command of Fort Hamilton in July of 2014, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson served as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), where he managed and synchronized an organization of 1,500 people in support of the global Counter-IED mission; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson commanded the 1st Squadron, 14 United States Cavalry Regiment which included a 12-month deployment to Diyala, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, In this position, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson conducted counterinsurgency and stability operations while also being responsible for the establishment and execution of operations in the Diyala Combined Security Area, bringing together Arabs and Kurd forces in a groundbreaking tripartite operation; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his outstanding service in the military, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Pathfinder Badge; and

WHEREAS, In his spare time, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson enjoys reading and not only watching but playing most sports, such as running, hiking, biking, and golfing; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Erin Hennessy, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by Colonel Joseph D. Davidson over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to

others; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal of the 22nd Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, Colonel Joseph D. Davidson 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 Colonel Joseph D. Davidson upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the 22nd Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Joseph D. Davidson.