

2015-J1051

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the John Michael Marino Lodge No. 1389, Order Sons of Italy in America

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the John Michael Marino Lodge No. 1389, Order Sons of Italy in America, to be celebrated on Friday, March 20, 2015, at the Port Washington Senior Center, Port Washington, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) encourages the maintenance of Italian culture and language, as well as the assimilation into American social and political life; it has sponsored a wide variety of programs in furtherance of its mission, as well as countless Italian heritage events; and

WHEREAS, The Order Sons of Italy in America was established in New York City on June 22, 1905, by Vincenzo Sellara, M.D., and a small group of other professionals; for almost 109 years, the Order Sons of Italy and its many local Lodges have been of service to the Italian American community throughout New York State and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, The John Michael Marino Lodge was built on the original Order Sons of Italy in America principles of liberty, equality and fraternity; it affectionately offers a hand to all and keeps alive the traditions of its ancestors; and

WHEREAS, James Marino, whose birth name was Giacomo Damita, was born in Nusco near Naples, and was one of the first Italians to come to Port Washington in 1885; he, along with his wife and three children, operated

a sand and gravel mining company, grocery store and boarding house; and
WHEREAS, The John Michael Marino Lodge is named after his son, Lieutenant John Michael Marino, first Italian American from Port Washington to perish serving his country in World War I; and

WHEREAS, By 1925, the Italian population had increased to sustain several mutual aid societies; the Frappaolo brothers, as well as Eugene Picone, and Alessandro Volpe recruited members for the Order Sons of Italy in America; and

WHEREAS, On November 22, 1925, the John Michael Marino Lodge received its charter with Dr. Eugene Calvelli, Sr. as its first Venerable; during this time, meetings were held at the Bayview Avenue Synagogue until John Dettori spearheaded the construction of a communal building at 115 Main Street in 1949; the "Villa Nova" hosted meetings and social gatherings until the property was sold in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Today, after 90 years of invaluable service to its community and under the able leadership of its new President, Marianne Bartone Prince, the John Michael Marino Lodge continues to celebrate Grande Festa Italiana, Long Island's oldest and largest feast, the week after Labor Day at Hempstead Harbor Park; and

WHEREAS, In addition to numerous parades and festivals, the John Michael Marino Lodge is responsible for initiating the Columbus Day Parade on Long Island; bocce courts were built at the Human Resource Center, County Parks and at Manorhaven Beach Park as another way of supporting the local community; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to the community, this vital organization gives substantial funds annually to countless community and state charities along with scholarships; Saint Joseph's Day Masses at local churches help stock community outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, The success of the John Michael Marino Lodge is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled

enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations 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 commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the John Michael Marino Lodge No. 1389, Order Sons of Italy in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the John Michael Marino Lodge No. 1389, Order Sons of Italy in America, Port Washington, New York.