

## 2015-J1269

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sister Katherine Graber, RSM and The Religious Sisters of Mercy upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Irish American Heritage Museum

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that individuals and organizations who distinguish themselves in their profession and in their commitment to their heritage and their community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Sister Katherine Graber, RSM and The Religious Sisters of Mercy upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Irish American Heritage Museum; it was celebrated at its 2nd Annual Governor Hugh L. Carey Awards Dinner, on Saturday, November 1, 2014, at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Irish American Heritage Museum is a permanently chartered not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and telling the story of the contributions of the Irish people and their culture in America, inspiring individuals to examine the importance of their own heritage as part of the American cultural mosaic; and

WHEREAS, The Irish American Heritage Museum Award acknowledges those who exemplify its ideals and help to further its mission; Sister Katherine Graber and The Religious Sisters of Mercy truly merit such recognition; and

WHEREAS, The Irish American Heritage Museum proudly recognizes the achievements of those who reflect in their work the contributions of the Irish people in America, and who exemplify the Irish spirit of Governor Hugh L. Carey and the Museum's mission; and

WHEREAS, As a Catholic Laywoman, Catherine McAuley recognized the

needs of people of the poor in early 19th century Ireland, and determined that she and women like her, could make a difference; and WHEREAS, In 1827, Mother Catherine McAuley established the First House of Mercy, a place to shelter and educate women and girls; impressed by her good works, the Archbishop of Dublin urged her to establish a religious congregation; and WHEREAS, In 1831, Mother Catherine McAuley and two companions founded the Religious Sisters of Mercy, in Dublin, Ireland; they have faithfully served the global community for more than 180 years; and WHEREAS, The Sisters of Mercy arrived in the United States in 1843; within 11 years, the sisters founded schools and hospitals across the country; today, the ministry has expanded to embrace education, health care, pastoral and social services to hundreds of sites; and WHEREAS, The Sisters of Mercy have served the Capital Region and all of New York in many community endeavors such as aiding in the establishment of St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York and spearheading programs to help the needy, women, and children; and WHEREAS, Sister Katherine Graber epitomizes the work and dedication of The Religious Sisters of Mercy; for more than 50 years she has assisted St. Peter's Hospital and its patients, she has served as the Hospital's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and currently serves on the Foundation Board of Trustees; in addition, she has been a vital member on the Board of Trustees of Maria College; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sister Katherine Graber, RSM and The Religious Sisters of Mercy upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Irish American Heritage Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sister Katherine Graber, RSM and The Religious Sisters of Mercy.