

2015-J1974

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sister Patricia Griffith, RSM, LMSW, D.Min. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy on May 19, 2015

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals and organizations which distinguish themselves through their unremitting commitment and service to humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sister Patricia Griffith, RSM, LMSW, D.Min. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy to be celebrated at its 16th Annual Evening of Mercy Gala on May 19, 2015, at The Yale Club of New York City; and

WHEREAS, The Sisters of Mercy work passionately to eliminate poverty, the widespread denial of human rights, the degradation of earth, the increase in violence and racism, the continued oppression of women, the abuse of children, the mistreatment of immigrants and the lack of solidarity among people and nations; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Griffith earned her bachelor's degree from Brentwood College and then went on to receive her Master's degrees from both Fordham University, New York City, and Adelphi University, Garden City, New York; and

WHEREAS, Furthering her education, Sister Patricia Griffith obtained three Post Graduate Certificates in Moral Theology, Gerontology, and

Non-Profit Management, and most recently earned her Doctorate of Ministry; and

WHEREAS, For more than five decades, Sister Patricia Griffith has been a faithful member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; since 1973, she has been assisting the poor of Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Sister Patricia Griffith began her career in elementary education, and after three years moved into parish ministry, establishing a parish hospitality center; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Sister Patricia Griffith co-founded Mercy Haven, Inc. as a means to respond compassionately and aggressively to the need for clean, decent and affordable housing for persons living with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Today, Sister Patricia Griffith continues to serve as the Executive Director of Mercy Haven, Inc., which now provides homes for over 368 participants including 60 children; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization has grown to be a multi-faceted community resource which includes free legal advocacy, education and employment skills training, as well as community outreach classes and seminars; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sister Patricia Griffith, RSM, LMSW, D.Min. upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sisters of Mercy on May 19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sister Patricia Griffith, RSM, LMSW, D.Min.