

2015-J4313

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Sullivan-O'Connor family upon the occasion of their selection as Irish Family of the Year by the St.

Patrick's Day Parade Committee on March 20, 2016

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 the Sullivan-O'Connor family upon the occasion of their selection as Irish Family of the Year by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to be celebrated at its Annual Parade on Sunday, March 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, Jack and Joan Sullivan-O'Connor moved to 28 - 94th St., Bay Ridge, New York, and began a family history that will continue for many generations to come; the home was a place for brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends and friends of friends to gather and spend time together; and

WHEREAS, The halls of the home are filled with countless stories which have been told and retold to three generations that have been born since their grandparents decided to call Bay Ridge home; some of the visitors stayed and some returned back to the beautiful Emerald Isle; having both large families here and across the pond the members of the Sullivan-O'Connor family have grown to be proud Irish Americans grateful to be able to go back "home"; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, family traditions such as shearing sheep and herding cattle or keeping grandmother's Irish soda bread recipe in

the family have endured, passed down through the generations to the youngest members of the clan; and

WHEREAS, The Sullivan-O'Connor-Harrington Clan have celebrated numerous baptisms, communions, confirmations, and marriages at St. Patrick's Parish; in addition, the church has been a place of sanctuary when the family has to say good-bye to a beloved member; and

WHEREAS, The elders of the Sullivan-O'Connor family taught their children and many other generations that their faith will be the one thing that will never leave them; members of this dynamic family served as Eucharistic Ministers, altar attendants, volunteers, World Youth Day participants, and coaches, as well as teachers; and

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Parish has always been and continues to be an important part of the Sullivan-O'Connor family dynamic; the church has given them the gift of many friendships which have grown the clan larger and stronger; and

WHEREAS, The close-knit congregation has taught children to read and write, dance the ceili, to be winners and sportsmanlike losers, to strive for excellence, and instilled the value of a Catholic education; the members of the family continued onto Catholic high schools and colleges such as Notre Dame Academy, Xavier, Bishop Kearney, Manhattan College and Sacred Heart University; and

WHEREAS, While attending these schools, they continued to take pride in their history, upbringing and religion; everyone participated in their schools' campus ministries and Gaelic Societies, and studied abroad in Ireland for short semesters; and

WHEREAS, Ireland will always hold special places in the families' hearts and is always one of the hardest places to say good-bye to, but

that's what continues to make it so important to teach future generations the pride of family and how they began in Bay Ridge; and

WHEREAS, They have grown up in a community where there are an abundant amount of cultures and nationalities present but there is still a sense

of Irish Camaraderie; most importantly, they will not forget the most important lesson St. Patrick's has taught and that is to march with pride down the beautiful 3rd Avenue every March; and

WHEREAS, As a large proud Irish American family, the Sullivan-O'Connors are honored to represent Bay Ridge in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with four generations still alive and kicking; it is an amazing opportunity to share our Irish pride with the entire Bay Ridge community, a blessed pride that has been ingrained in family members from birth; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which the members of the Sullivan-O'Connor family have displayed throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Irish Family of the Year, the Sullivan-O'Connor family 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 the Sullivan-O'Connor family upon the occasion of their selection as Irish Family of the Year by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee on March 20, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Sullivan-O'Connor family.