

2015-J4769

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Father Mark Connell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Human Rights Award by the Orange County Human Rights Commission

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Father Mark Connell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Human Rights Award by the Orange County Human Rights Commission, to be celebrated at its 21st Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at The Fountains of Wallkill, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he is being honored by the Orange County Human Rights Commission in recognition of his steadfast dedication to the community and his work to build better relationships among diverse people, encouraging them to participate in community life on an equal basis; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Father Mark Connell gathered students and their families from different walks of life to create the San Miguel Academy of Newburgh, a school for underserved boys which provides a safe haven for intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, Under Father Mark Connell's luminous guidance, San Miguel

Academy has helped its students defy the odds of succeeding academically utilizing small class sizes, extended school days, and an extended school year to fight the cycle of poverty through education; and

WHEREAS, Father Mark Connell's vision, dedication and commitment to the students of San Miguel and their families has helped over 150 boys to graduate and embark on their journey to a brighter future with the skills necessary to be leaders in the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Father Mark Connell has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Father Mark Connell has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 honor Father Mark Connell upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Human Rights Award by the Orange County Human Rights Commission on April 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Father Mark Connell.