

## 2017-J1358

Senate Resolution No. 1358

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Jeff Wilson upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the 77th Annual Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 19, 2017

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time to celebrate the rich heritage of the Irish people, unlimited in their contribution to this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day Parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland and provides an opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jeff Wilson upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the 77th Annual Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade, held on Sunday, March 19, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Presented by the United Irish American Association (UIAA) the theme of the 2017 Saint Patrick's Day Parade was "Hail to Saint Patrick - God Bless America - Support our Troops," and was dedicated to the memory of Thomas P. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, The fun-filled day began with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Richard J. Malone and Chaplain Father David Richards at Saint Joseph's Cathedral at 10:30 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade was joyfully watched by thousands of people as it proceeded north on Delaware Avenue to North Street; Buffalonians and visitors enthusiastically waved to their Grand Marshal, Jeff Wilson, as he proudly marched by; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Western New York, Jeff Wilson was one of four children born to the late Renwick and Marie Wilson; he grew up in South Buffalo, where he was a student at Bishop Neumann High School; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Erie Community College, Jeff Wilson owned and operated his own business for 30 years; currently, he is a utility inspector for Onshore Quality Control Specialists representing Kinder Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wilson first became involved with the UIAA, when he volunteered to work along the route of the St. Patrick's Day Parade; after many years of service, he was elected to the Executive Committee of the United Irish American Association; throughout his tenure, he has served in various capacities such as fundraising, and helping with setup and take down of reviewing stands and barricades after parade day; and

WHEREAS, Grand Marshal Jeff Wilson's Deputy Marshals include his wife of 30 years, Lynn Wilson; his three children, Kyle, Courtney, and Lauren; and his close friends from UIAA, Garry Johnson and Mark O'Neill; the group was led by his sister and brother-in-law, Carole and Dan Dundon; and his brother and sister-in-law, William and Nancy Wilson; and

WHEREAS, The St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates the spirit, purity and strength of the Irish culture and its fine traditions; and

WHEREAS, Through this heartfelt and compassionate expression, as

well as through their sustained commitment to the cultural vitality of their Irish heritage, the Irish-American people of the City of Buffalo, Erie County, and the entire State of New York bear witness to the deep faith and love of humanity which is their rich tradition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jeff Wilson upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 19, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grand Marshal Jeff Wilson.