

2017-K899

Assembly Resolution No. 899

BY: M. of A. Cusick

COMMENDING Loretta Brennan Glucksman upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who work diligently to preserve and celebrate their rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Loretta Brennan Glucksman upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, In acknowledgment of this most prestigious appointment, Loretta Brennan Glucksman will have the honor of leading the 257th consecutive New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade up Fifth Avenue on Saturday, March 17, 2018; and

WHEREAS, New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade marched for the first time in 1762, 14 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Parade is regarded as the most popular of all the Parades in New York City, and honors Saint Patrick - the patron Saint of the Archdiocese of New York and Ireland; and

WHEREAS, The New York Parade consists only of marchers and each year hosts some 250,000 marchers and two million spectators; the Parade has many outstanding marching bands, bagpipers in marching formations, high school and college bands from throughout the United States and from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Brennan Glucksman has worked tirelessly to not only promote Irish culture but to establish strong ties between America and the island of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Raised in an Irish neighborhood in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Loretta is the granddaughter of four Irish immigrants; and

WHEREAS, An early high achiever, Loretta earned a scholarship to study at Chestnut Hill College; she went on to marry her high school sweetheart, Jack Cooney, and teach at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey); this position offered her a chance to teach while enrolling her three children in the school's early childhood program; and

WHEREAS, Loretta's career changed in the early 1970s when she moved to television, introducing a book program at the then new Trenton-based public television station and after that a public affairs program "The Thursday Report" which she worked on for over a decade before moving into public relations; and

WHEREAS, It was in 1984 when Loretta, now divorced, met Lewis Glucksman who was the head of the investment bank, Lehman Brothers;

three years later, he took her to Ireland for her very first visit which left her overwhelmed and mesmerized; eventually, the Glucksmans bought a home in Ireland near Cobh; sadly, Lewis passed away there in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Between 1987 and 2006, the Glucksmans made many unforgettable contributions to Ireland and to the Irish-American community; in 1993, Glucksman Ireland House opened at New York University and today, Loretta is the co-Chair on Ireland House's advisory board; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Brennan Gluckman is also Chairman of The American Ireland Fund; she has played a key role in philanthropic efforts to spread peace throughout the island of Ireland, including funding two integrated schools for Catholic and Protestant children in the North; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work with the Fund and Glucksman Ireland House, Loretta serves on the boards of The National Gallery of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork and the Royal Irish Academy; and

WHEREAS, In these pivotal and difficult times for Ireland, Loretta Brennan Glucksman perseveres as a strong advocate for the country, increasing awareness and interest in Irish history and culture throughout the United States, and rallying much-needed support; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal for the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, Loretta Brennan Glucksman embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; she is a steadfast champion of all things Irish and Irish American; 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, 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Loretta Brennan Glucksman upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the New York City 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Loretta Brennan Glucksman.