

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary Beth Casey O'Brien upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of an Irish American Heritage Museum's Inaugural Governor Hugh L. Carey Award on April 20, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in their commitment to their heritage and their community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Mary Beth Casey O'Brien upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of an Irish American Heritage Museum's Governor Hugh L. Carey Award; and

WHEREAS, The Irish American Heritage Museum is dedicated to preserving and telling the story of the contributions of the Irish people and their culture in America, inspiring individuals to examine the importance of their own heritage as part of the American cultural mosaic; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien, a daughter of Erin, will be honored at the Irish American Heritage Museum's Inaugural Governor Hugh L. Carey Awards Dinner, to be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York on Saturday, April 20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Irish American Heritage Museum's Governor Hugh L. Carey Award proudly recognizes the achievements of those who exemplify its ideals and help to further its mission; Mary Beth Casey O'Brien truly merits such recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien, a Capital District Good Samaritan, has volunteered on a number of charitable boards across the region, state, and nation; she wholeheartedly devotes her time and talents to countless causes, each of which makes a significant difference in the lives of the underprivileged; and

WHEREAS, From an early age, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien knew the importance of being of service to those in need, a value instilled in her by her parents while growing up in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, As an adolescent soup kitchen volunteer, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien became keenly aware of and profoundly dismayed by the too-easily muted cry of the poor and has sought to make that cry more audible through service in numerous church and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Catholic Central High School, in 1959, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of St. Elizabeth where she became acquainted with the Daughters of Charity, a relationship which has had a lasting and powerful impact on her life and upon those around her; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien joined Samaritan Hospital as a Clinical Dietician and, in 1961, was promoted to Chief Dietician; she simultaneously served as an Administrative Dietician at the Rensselaer County Nursing Home and St. Mary's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, After serving in a number of local leadership positions within the Albany Chapter of the Ladies of Charity, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien was elected President of the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America (LCUSA), presiding over a membership of 20,000 women; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien is a member of the Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and has served as a non-governmental organization (NGO) representative for the International Association of Charities at the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, Currently, she serves on the boards of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany and the Albany and Catholic Charities AIDS Services and continues her service with the Ladies of Charity locally,

nationally, and internationally and, is, in addition an affiliate of the Daughters of Charity; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien is currently involved in the first ongoing partnership between a domestic social service provider and an academic institution, Catholic Charities USA and the University of Notre Dame, an alliance revolutionizing the way we approach poverty in America; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Notre Dame unveiled "The Irish Madonna," a bronze statue of a 19th century Irish immigrant woman carrying a baby, in the south end of the Eck Visitors atrium; the statue is a gift to the University from Frank and Mary Beth O'Brien and their daughters in memory of their son and brother Frankie and commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the vast Irish migration to America in the wake of the "Great Hunger" famine in Ireland; and

WHEREAS, She served, as well, many years as a Member of the Board of Catholic Charities USA and has also served as a Trustee of the College of St. Elizabeth, Siena College, and Maria College; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien has received honorary doctoral degrees from The College of St. Rose in 2005 and the University of Notre Dame in 2011 and St. John's University's Elizabeth Ann Seton Award in 2004 and the College of St. Elizabeth's Humanitarian Award in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien and her late husband Frank raised six children and instilled in them their value of service to others and to the greater community; and

WHEREAS, A woman immensely grateful for the blessings bestowed upon her, Mary Beth Casey O'Brien every day seeks to give something back; a true advocate and woman of action, she is a shining example of a Catholic laywoman and a person of great compassion, wisdom, and zeal; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Beth Casey O'Brien upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of an Irish American Heritage Museum's Inaugural Governor Hugh L. Carey Award on April 20, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mary Beth Casey O'Brien.