

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, Our Lady of Knock Division upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, Our Lady of Knock Division upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization; the AOH in America was founded at New York's St. James Church on May 4, 1836; and

WHEREAS, Today, the AOH exists in America, Canada, Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland; while the organizations share a common thread, the American AOH is a separate and much larger organization; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1960's the population of Islip Town was growing rapidly; part of this growth was the Irish and the Irish American community; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, a group of men in the Islip community began working on creating a division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) in the town; and

WHEREAS, On February 24, 1963, The Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, Our Lady of Knock Division was organized; the following men were the founding members: Patrick Fitzpatrick, President; Peter Bulfin, Vice President; John Reilly, Recording Secretary; Thomas Slattery, Financial Secretary; Fintan Stapleton, Treasurer; Reverend James Howard, Chaplain; John Burke; Martin Burke; Albert Camey; Michael Collins; Charles Fagan; Thomas Gannon; William Kilgallen; Patrick Maloney; Stephen McCormick; Patrick O'Brian; Patrick O'Kane; and James Walsh; and

WHEREAS, The division originally met at the Collins Inn but eventually was able to purchase land and build a hall; the hall has expanded over the years and now includes a meeting hall, a pub, several offices, and storage space; and

WHEREAS, Many family and church activities take place annually at AOH Division 7, along with dozens of charitable fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, AOH Division 7 has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to many worthy causes; its members also regularly give service to the community; and

WHEREAS, One of the highlights of AOH Division 7's history was the creation of the East Islip St. Patrick's Parade by the founding member John Reilly in 1966; he ran the parade until his death in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Today, the parade continues as the John P. Reilly Memorial East Islip St. Patrick's Parade and has become a major event for the local community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend the members, past and present, of the AOH Division 7 who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the residents and community it serves; noting the significance of its unremitting efforts to build a commonality of interest and pride of cooperative achievement, inherent in the values of community and family life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, Our Lady of Knock

Division upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 7, Our Lady of Knock Division.