

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Anthony Mele upon the occasion of his elevation to the rank of Knighthood by the Priory of Saint Patrick of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, when the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in commitment to community, there emerge among the distinguished citizenry of the State of New York, certain individuals who warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Anthony Mele upon the occasion of his elevation to the rank of Knighthood by the Priory of Saint Patrick of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem; the Convent and Investiture will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Holy Innocents Church, Highland Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is a modern Christian Order of Knighthood, dedicated to: living, by-example, the noble ideals of chivalry and selfless service while seeking God in their lives and promoting love and respect in their communities; maintaining a Christian presence in the Holy Land by increasing understanding and respect between members of all religions and faiths and helping pilgrims visit holy places; helping the poor, the sick, the unjustly accused and those who stand against oppression and protect freedom of speech; and protecting the monuments, archives and history of the Knights Templar; the Priory of Saint Patrick serves as the Hudson Valley home for Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mele, of Chestnut Ridge, New York, has demonstrated the good character, life accomplishments, and commitment to the ideals of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem required for the attainment of this illustrious designation; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mele is a United Nations Vendor, a Federal Firearms Licensee, and Defense Trade Broker, Department of State Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, Washington, DC; he holds a Bachelor of Science in International Relations and Counterterrorism from Empire State College, New York, and a Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Conflict Management, from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man served in the United States Army in a number of prestigious assignments, including the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard); the Intelligence and Security Command, Defense Intelligence Agency; the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM) in Saudi Arabia, and Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Pentagon; a graduate of the Defense Intelligence College in Washington, DC, he was decorated for valor and peacetime heroism, receiving the Army Commendation Medal, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster; the Meritorious Service Medal; and Good Conduct Medal, 2nd Award, all by the time he was 23 years old; and

WHEREAS, In the private sector, Anthony Mele has held positions at the BDM Corporation, International Security Directorate, and consulting assignments for Electronic Warfare Associates, and Fowler Trading Company, among others, in the arena of the international arms trade; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mele has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, His philanthropic and civic activities include: aiding distressed communities plagued by drugs and gangs, mentoring youth, negotiating truces between rival street gang factions in New York and

Washington, DC; he has served on the boards of directors of the United

Way, Rockland County; International Rotary Club; and Mock Youth Courts; he also assisted the President and Tribal Council of the Lakota Sioux Tribes at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Anthony Mele serves as the Chairman, 65th Infantry Regiment Honor Task Force, where for the past 14 years, he has worked on a national scale for the recognition and rights of veterans, ranging from ensuring they receive an appropriate military honor guard funeral service, lost decorations or overlooked awards due them, and serving as their voice in providing testimony before government officials; this compassionate man also visits his fellow veterans in hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Anthony Mele 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 Anthony Mele has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Anthony Mele upon the occasion of his elevation to the rank of Knighthood by the Priory of Saint Patrick of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anthony Mele.