

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sister Virginia Lake CSJ upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the 20th Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 24, 2013

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Irish people throughout the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sister Virginia Lake CSJ upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the 20th Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Sunday, March 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Sister Virginia Lake was born and raised in Brooklyn to Helen (McGowan) and Irving Lake; her maternal grandfather, William. E. McGowan, came to the United States from Ireland as a young man, married Helen Carson and settled in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Sister Virginia Lake and her two sisters attended St. Anselm's School and Fontbonne Hall; in 1956, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood; and

WHEREAS, While teaching in parish grammar schools, Sister Virginia Lake earned an MS in math education from Fordham University and taught math at Mary Louis Academy before coming to Kearney in 1970; three years later, she was named assistant principal and became director of development in 1983; and

WHEREAS, As assistant principal, Sister Virginia Lake introduced modular and arena scheduling and established the Student Faculty Council and the Student Activity Council; as director of development, she expanded Kearney's public relations and fundraising areas, computerized the alumnae records and established a formal alumnae association; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with her philosophy that you can not ask people to give of their time, treasure and talent unless you set the example, Sister Virginia Lake has spoken on phases of development at NCEA conventions, local schools, dioceses and Fordham graduate programs; and

WHEREAS, A woman of singular distinction, Sister Virginia Lake has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Sister Virginia Lake has volunteered at the 62nd Precinct Community Council, Junior Achievement of New York, the Alzheimer Association of New York City, HeartShare, Resurrection Church and the Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Ambulance Service; and

WHEREAS, She has served on the Brooklyn Advisory Board of the Salvation Army of Greater New York and the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart Academy; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her service to these organizations, Sister Virginia Lake has been the recipient of the Outstanding Service to Bensonhurst Award from the 62nd Precinct Community Council, the Outstanding Service to Youth Award from Junior Achievement of New York, a Certificate of Merit from the PBA, NYPD, Bishop Kearney's Fine Arts Department Award and Athletic Department's No. 1 Fan Award; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Sister Virginia Lake was inducted into the Bishop Kearney Hall of Fame and in 2011, Kearney's athletic department named an award in her honor, to recognize athletes who are outstanding young women; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Sister Virginia Lake has worked with a dedi-

cated Kearney community, watching thousands of nervous freshmen grow into mature young women; she believes her most important accomplishments are and will always be her alumnae; she has truly helped to make a difference in their lives, and hope they, in turn, will have a positive influence on those they meet; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by Sister Virginia Lake over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal of the 20th Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sister Virginia Lake embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sister Virginia Lake CSJ upon the occasion of her designation as Grand Marshal of the 20th Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sister Virginia Lake CSJ.