

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. Dennis J. and Marilyn Murray upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by The Marist College Board of Trustees on May 6, 2016

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to education is unparalleled; its history and stature are secured by the superlative caliber of its educational professionals and the students they inspire; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the distinguished careers of those outstanding educational leaders, whose dedication and achievements have been instrumental in developing character and academic excellence in the young people 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 commend Dr. Dennis J. and Marilyn Murray upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by The Marist College Board of Trustees, celebrated at an event held in their honor on Friday, May 6, 2016, at Marist College Campus, Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native Californian, Dennis J. Murray received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Long Beach, and both his master's degree and Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his appointment at Marist College, Dr. Dennis J. Murray taught at the USC School of International and Public Affairs, and served as Director of University Relations and Executive Assistant to the President at California State University, Long Beach, and as Vice President for Development at Whittier College; and

WHEREAS, With the support of his loving wife, Dr. Dennis J. Murray began his long and esteemed career as President of Marist College in 1979; he came to the school with a goal of building a student-centered institution which would prepare students for graduate school, successful professional careers, and lives of civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. Dennis J. Murray's luminous leadership, Marist College has enjoyed an exceptional period of growth and change; many distinctive academic programs and student services have been added, enrollments have more than quadrupled, and the College has become one of the most selective institutions in the country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray was instrumental in tripling the size of the campus by building new academic buildings, student residences, a Student Center, a state-of-the-art library, and a sports stadium; most recently, the contemporary Hancock Center has emerged as both the architectural and academic focal point of the campus; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Marist College has received the gift of the historic Colonel Oliver Hazard Payne mansion and 60-acre estate to be used for the leadership training of students from the College and from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has forged numerous community and corporate relationships which have greatly benefited the College; early in his tenure, he recognized the important role that information technology would play in enhancing the teaching and learning process; thanks to a longtime partnership with the IBM Corporation, Marist College has become one of the Nation's most technologically advanced liberal arts colleges; and

WHEREAS, Today, this sophisticated computing environment is helping students gain the knowledge and skills they will need to be competitive in their chosen careers; the James A. Cannavino Library has gained recognition as one of the finest libraries in the world combining both digital and traditional resources; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to the students of Marist College, Dr. Dennis J. and

Marilyn Murray can often be found at student athletic events, musical performances, and activities sponsored by more than 75 student clubs and organizations; Dennis frequently interacts with student leaders at luncheons and dinners, and takes particular pride in celebrating the accomplishments of his students in the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the community; and

WHEREAS, Marist College is increasingly being recognized as a national leader in education; the College is listed in THE PRINCETON REVIEW'S "The Best 373 Colleges in the Country," and U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT ranked Marist in the top 10 of colleges and universities in the north-east, as well as one of 70 schools to watch nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Marist College's AACSB-accredited School of Management is ranked among "The Best 300 Business Schools" by THE PRINCETON REVIEW; and is listed in KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE MAGAZINE'S annual review of the "100 Best Buys in Private Colleges," as well as in BARRON'S 231 "Best Buys in College Education"; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, THE PRINCETON REVIEW and FORBES named Marist College one of the 25 "Most Connected Campuses" in America, and it was selected by the John Templeton Foundation as one of the Nation's leading colleges to encourage character development; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the community in which he lives and works, Dr. Dennis J. Murray serves on the Board of Directors for the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley and the Roosevelt Institute, which supports the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in nearby Hyde Park, New York; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to the field of education and to his community, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the Franciscan Award from the Sisters of St. Francis, the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League, and the Family of the Year Award from Family Services; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Dr. Dennis J. Murray received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal at a ceremony also honoring Queen Noor of Jordan, the late Lea Rabin of Israel, and the late Marist Trustee Frances Reese, founder of the environmental movement in America; HUDSON VALLEY magazine described him as one of the 35 most influential people in the history of the region; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Marilyn, and his two children, Marian and Michael, all of whom feel privileged to be a part
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of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Educators like Dr. Dennis J. Murray provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people in their educational journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dennis J. Murray has clearly had an enduring impact on the students of Marist College, as well as on the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals who work to support our proud tradition of higher education by providing their skills and talents to our colleges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Dennis J. and Marilyn Murray upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by The Marist College Board of Trustees on May 6, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Dennis J. and Marilyn Murray.

