LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Bernie O'Brien upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the 2010 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who work diligently to preserve and celebrate their rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Bernie O'Brien upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the 2010 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 20, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, Bernie O'Brien is the son of Frank and Madeline O'Brien; after graduating from Hastings High School in 1950, he attended Brockport State Teacher's College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien proudly served as a member of the United States Army Medical Corps from 1954-1956, and was stationed in Berlin, Germany; upon completion of his service, he continued his education at NYU and earned a secondary Administration degree in 1957; and

WHEREAS, He began his esteemed career at Valley Stream High School teaching Physical Education as well as coaching the football, basketball and baseball teams; in 1959, he was appointed Chairman of Physical Education, School Health and Driving Education; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Bernie O'Brien was also the Director of Athletics and the Coordinator of Adult Recreation; in 1978, he was appointed District Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics for the Rockville Centre School District; one year later, he was appointed to the position of Executive Director for Athletics for 56 high schools and 55 middle schools in Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, In this new role, Bernie O'Brien was responsible for scheduling all athletic activities, assigning officials, conducting all post season tournaments, accounting all ticket sales from post season play and implementing all policy changes from the State Education Department; and

WHEREAS, After a long and diverse career, Bernie O'Brien retired in December 1992 but remained a consultant to the new Director until June 1995; and

WHEREAS, A man of great faith, Bernie O'Brien has been a parishioner at St. Agnes for 49 years; he has served his fellow congregants as both a lector and Eucharistic Minister; for 33 years, he has opened the Cathedral every day of the week, preparing it for daily masses and assisting the priests of the parish; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien also ministers to the homebound and has trained potential altar servers for 18 years; he is also an original member of the St. Agnes Grammar School Board as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus and American Legion Post 0303; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his unwavering efforts, Bernie O'Brien and his wife, were the first couple from St. Agnes to receive the St. Agnes Cathedral Diocesan Medal given for service to the church and presented by the Bishop; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Bernie O'Brien was an honoree at the Parish celebration on October 9, 2002, and the Friends of Mercy Medical Center in March 2006; in 1983, he received a Special Service Award from the New York State Athletics Administrators Honor Award; in 1984, he was selected to direct the opening and closing ceremonies for the International Games for the Disabled at Mitchell Field; in 1985, he received
the Special Service Award from the New York State Athletics Administrators Association; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the National Interscholastic Athletics Association gave Bernie O'Brien a Special Honor Award in 1986; and as the grand finale of his career in athletics, he was inducted into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Hall-of-Fame as Athletic Administrator on August 5, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien married his beloved wife, Marilyn Logan, on August 27, 1960; today, they are the proud parents of seven children, the late Tim (Lisa), Bob (Hollie), Kathy (the late Steve), Patrick (Nancy), Teri (Mark), Sean (Heather), and Kevin (Erin); they are also the loving grandparents of 25 grandchildren; and

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

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal of the 2010 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade, Bernie O'Brien embodies the spirit and cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bernie O'Brien upon the occasion of his designation as Grand Marshal of the 2010 Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day Parade; and be it further

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