

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Maurice Landers upon the occasion of his designation as a Deputy Grand Marshal of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 3, 2012

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 these United States; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day Parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and highlights the many contributions and historical accomplishments of the Irish community in this diverse land; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Maurice Landers upon the occasion of being named a Deputy Grand Marshal of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on Saturday, March 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Also being honored as Deputy Grand Marshals at this year's Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade are Maureen Donachie, Mary Ellen Murray, Ralph Reed, Richard Keane, Mark C. Edwards, Laura Sporny, Sister Agnes White, C.S.J., Eileen McDonald, and Michael Charles Schramm, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade will honor Kevin O'Brien as Grand Marshal of the parade, Thomas Flood and Eileen Long-Chelales as Honorary Grand Marshals and Edward Rice and Paddy McCarthy as Gaels of the Year; and

WHEREAS, All of this year's honorees are fittingly being recognized for their service in their individual fields to the Irish and Irish-Americans throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, Maurice Landers, a native of Limerick, Ireland, has been very instrumental in service to the Irish community in New York and in helping to find employment for newly arrived immigrants; and

WHEREAS, He is a member of the Limerickmen's Association and numerous other organizations in New York including Failte 32, an initiative designed to help Irish J-1 visa holders, and holders of other types of work visas, find employment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Failte 32 was organized by a few business people in the Irish-American community in New York City and is supported by a network of affiliated Irish-American organizations and Strategic Partners and has been featured on "Morning Ireland," "Ireland Calls Radio" as well as in the IRISH EXAMINER (Ireland), IRISH EXAMINER USA, and the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, and on local and national radio stations on both sides of the Atlantic and was given mention on NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon Show"; and

WHEREAS, Failte 32 organizers are very grateful for the support of the Irish Consulate, in particular the former Consul General, Hon. Niall Burgess, who supported Failte 32 from the beginning which helped get the initiative off the ground; and

WHEREAS, The idea for Failte 32 developed after Paul Hurley read an article in the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS about the very difficult time young Irish people were having finding employment in the United States and felt that it was his duty to do something about it; and

WHEREAS, A committee, including the organizers, Paul Hurley, Paddy McCarthy and Maurice Landers, and the heads of the main influential Irish American organizations in New York City, was formed to discuss how they could best support these newest arrivals and, the result was Failte 32; and

WHEREAS, Failte 32 was formally launched by the then Consul General, The Honorable Niall Burgess, in May 2010; shortly thereafter a televised post-launch meeting/party was held at O'Casey's Bar and Restaurant which

included a large number of J-1 visa holders, some of whom were interviewed on that day; and

WHEREAS, Since then, the Shamrock Fund was launched to support eligible visa holders by paying their annual dues to Irish-American business and community organizations to help them actively network for employment; and

WHEREAS, Maurice Landers truly embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and nation; 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 Maurice Landers upon the occasion of his/her designation as a Deputy Grand Marshal of the 37th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held on March 3, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maurice Landers.