

**BY:** Senator GOUNARDES

**COMMENDING** the O'Malley Dance Academy upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary on February 2, 2019

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals and organizations whose commitment and creative talents contribute to the cultural enrichment and entertainment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the O'Malley Dance Academy upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary at an event on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at the Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** For 25 years, the O'Malley Dance Academy has proudly promoted Irish culture and fostered a sense of pride in its dancers; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded by former champion dancer Maureen O'Malley, the O'Malley Dance Academy currently instructs over 150 children and adults across three locations in Brooklyn and Queens; and

**WHEREAS,** Maureen O'Malley and her staff have trained dancers for numerous local, regional, national and world competitions with great success; her students can be found at over 60 events during the year, volunteering their time and talent to many worthwhile causes; and

**WHEREAS,** The students have performed all over the country, on television, at Ellis Island, City Hall, and for New York sports teams including the Mets, Nets, Liberty and Brooklyn Cyclones; the dancers also perform in countless schools, nursing homes, children's hospitals, convents, centers for children with special needs and military bases during the year; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, the students have entertained thousands by showcasing their incredible talents in the Rockaway, Bay Ridge, and Park Slope St. Patrick's Day Parades; and

**WHEREAS,** The O'Malley Dance Academy also takes part in many charitable fundraisers such as Making Strides, and sponsors various sports programs for the parishes of Good Shepherd, St. Francis de Sales, and Blessed Trinity; and

**WHEREAS,** The O'Malley Dance Academy seeks to help its own dancers by defraying the cost of the children's costumes to the parents, and providing two full year Irish Dance Scholarships and college scholarships to their graduating seniors; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of the performing arts, which act to inspire, enlighten, and unify people from

all cultural backgrounds through the transcendent power of human expression; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the O'Malley Dance Academy upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary on February 2, 2019; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maureen O'Malley, Director, O'Malley Dance Academy.