

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

COMMENDING the Irish Americans from the State of New York for their perseverance and influence in helping to bring peace, justice and freedom to all citizens in the North of Ireland

WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, the oldest and largest Irish American organizations, are dedicated to perpetuating the history and traditions of the Irish people and to promoting peace and Freedom for all Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Through decades of conflict known as the Troubles, Irish Americans, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, desired and called upon the United States government to help negotiate peace with justice; and

WHEREAS, A member of the New York State Assembly, Assemblyman John Dearie, with the support of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and other Irish American organizations, formulated an Irish American political agenda which included the appointment of an American Special Envoy, visas for Sinn Fein, the MacBride Principles against religious discrimination in employment, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Thirty years ago, in April of 1992, at a critical point during the New York State Presidential primary campaign, candidate Bill Clinton, at a Presidential candidates forum, organized by Assemblyman Dearie, and attended by many members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, pledged if elected to appoint a United States Special Envoy, end visa censorship against Sinn Fein and support civil rights in the North of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, These pledges led to the appointment of United States Senator George Mitchell as a Special Envoy, and were instrumental in achieving the Good Friday Agreement and bringing about peace on principles that have been reaffirmed most recently on St. Patrick's Day in House Resolution 888; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans, including members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians remember that Irish Americans in New York State played a crucial role in gaining these breakthrough American pledges that opened the door to the Good Friday Agreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to join the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in recognizing the accomplishments of the Irish Americans from the State of New York and lauding their perseverance in their efforts to bring peace, justice and freedom to all citizens in the North of Ireland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.