

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0749
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Welch, D’Adamo, Clarke, Kraft, Conaway,
Middleton, Young, Mitchell, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Harris, Reisinger,
Crider

Introduced and read first time: July 16, 2007

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Baltimore City Welcomes Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien**

3 FOR the purpose of welcoming Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien to our City, expressing
4 appreciation for his brave ministering to U.S. troops on the battlefield, recognizing his many
5 years of dedicated service to the Archdiocese of New York and the North American College
6 in Rome, and celebrating his installation as the 15th Bishop of this Premier See on October 1,
7 2007; and providing for a special effective date.

8 **Recitals**

9 The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA resume of Archbishop O’Brien states that
10 dining with devoted 17-year-old sailors on the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt somewhere in
11 the Gulf and waking up to the footsteps of young soldiers resolutely going about their duty in the
12 dark, outside a tent in Kosovo, are the experiences that inspired the Archbishop in his ministry as
13 shepherd to the U.S. servicemen and women, their families, and their chaplains.

14 Calling his ministry the greatest job in the world, the Archbishop, who has said: “Our men
15 and women in uniform have already sacrificed so much, they shouldn’t have to sacrifice their
16 faith”, began his service to the military in 1965, with his 1st assignment to West Point as a parish
17 priest and civilian chaplain. Seeing that he was blessing new cadets in May and burying them in
18 December, then Fr. O’Brien became a military chaplain.

19 The Archbishop served a “hands-on” tour of duty in Vietnam where he lived out of
20 helicopters, trying to bring healing to troops tired of the fighting, demoralized by war protests at
21 home, and tempted by easily available drugs. He left the military chaplaincy in 1973, for
22 doctoral studies in Rome, but in the following 20 years of his service to the Archdiocese of New
23 York and the North American College in Rome, he never forgot his experience as a military
24 chaplain, nor the men and women who were willing to sacrifice their lives for freedom and for
25 their country.

26 In 1997, Edwin O’Brien was named Archbishop for Military Services and returned to the
27 service of the brave men, women, and families of the military. In 2007, we are proud to
28 welcome this brave and dedicated man to our lovely City, the birthplace of American
29 Catholicism, where he will take over an archdiocese of 500,000 Catholics and 151 parishes and
30 become part of a huge faith community that attends to the spiritual needs of people from many
31 faiths, ethnicities, and countries of origin.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 07-0749

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
2 this Body and the citizens of Baltimore welcome Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien to our City,
3 express appreciation for his brave ministering to U.S. troops on the battlefield, recognize his
4 many years of dedicated service to the Archdiocese of New York and the North American
5 College in Rome, and celebrate his installation as the 15th Bishop of this Premier See on October
6 1, 2007.

7 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be presented to
8 Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien.

9 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on the date it
10 is enacted.