

## 2009-K842

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a woman of singular distinction and extraordinary accomplishment

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to remarkable and inspirational citizens whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the Nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the loving sister of the late President John F. Kennedy, died on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, in Cape Cod Hospital, Massachusetts, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brookline, Massachusetts, on July 10, 1921, the fifth of nine children to Joseph P. Kennedy and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy earned a sociology degree from Stanford University in 1943, after graduating from a British boarding school while her father served as ambassador to England; and

WHEREAS, She worked as a social worker at a women's prison in Alderson, West Virginia, and was employed at the juvenile court in Chicago in the 1950s before taking over the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation in 1957; her goal was to improve the treatment of the mentally disabled; this illustrious foundation was named for her oldest brother, Joseph Jr., who was killed in World War II; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, she married Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr. who became JFK's first director of the Peace Corps, and George McGovern's vice-presidential running mate in 1972; in addition, he ran for president in 1976; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, under her esteemed leadership, the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation established the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, and in 1962, developed the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, Eunice Kennedy Shriver helped establish a network of university-affiliated facilities and mental retardation research centers at major medical schools across the United States; and

WHEREAS, While her brother was in the White House, Eunice Kennedy Shriver pressed for efforts to help troubled young people as well as the mentally disabled; in 1968, she founded what would become the world's largest athletic competition for mentally disabled children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 1 million athletes in more than 160 countries participate in Special Olympics each year; the roots of these extraordinary meets began at a summer camp organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in Maryland in 1963; and

WHEREAS, This is where she realized these children were far more capable of participating in sports than experts had imagined; Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the first Special Olympics in 1968 in Chicago; the two-day event drew more than 1,000 participants from 26 states and Canada; and

WHEREAS, By 2003, the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held in Dublin, Ireland, involved more than 6,500 athletes from 150 countries; even in her late 70's, Eunice Kennedy Shriver remained a daily presence at the Special Olympics headquarters in Washington; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her extraordinary life, Eunice Kennedy Shriver touched the lives of countless people; her commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Eunice Kennedy Shriver created centers for the study of medical ethics at Harvard and Georgetown Universities; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Eunice Kennedy Shriver established the "Community of Caring" concept for the reduction of intellectual disabilities among babies of teenagers, 16 "Community of Caring" Centers in 1982, and the establishment of "Community of Caring" programs in 1200 public and

private schools from 1990-2006; and

WHEREAS, Eunice Kennedy Shriver has been recognized nationally and throughout the world for her efforts on behalf of persons with intellectual disabilities as evidenced by such awards as the Priz de la Couronne Francaise, the AAMD Humanitarian Award, the Order of the Smile of Polish Children, and The National Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she was the recipient of the Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which she received in 1984; in May of this year, the National Portrait Gallery installed a painting of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the first portrait commissioned by the museum of someone who had not been a president or first- lady; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her husband, Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., Eunice Kennedy Shriver is survived by her four sons, Robert Sargent Shriver III, Timothy Perry Shriver, Mark Kennedy Shriver, Anthony Paul Kennedy Shriver; her daughter, Maria Shriver Schwarzenegger; a brother, Senator Edward Kennedy; and a sister, Jean Kennedy Smith; as well as 19 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Eunice Kennedy Shriver leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a woman of singular distinction and extraordinary accomplishment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Eunice Kennedy Shriver.