

2013-K1306

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing the life and career of Emmy-winning actress Ann B. Davis, famous for her role as Alice on "The Brady Bunch"

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay just tribute to those whose creative talents and commitment to the arts contributed to the enrichment of their community and the world and to pay homage to a woman whose life of artistic accomplishment stands out as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved this day to memorialize the life and career of Ann Bradford Davis, Emmy-winning actress who became the country's favorite and most famous housekeeper as the devoted Alice Nelson of "The Brady Bunch"; she died on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Ann B. Davis was born on May 5, 1926, in Schenectady, New York, to Marguerite and Cassius Miles Davis, an electrical engineer with General Electric; she had two siblings, an identical twin, Harriet, and an older brother, Evans; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Strong Vincent High School in Erie, Pennsylvania, Ann B. Davis continued her education and earned a degree in theater from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; she then joined a repertory theater in Erie; and

WHEREAS, During the 1953-1954 season, Ann B. Davis appeared as a musical judge on ABC's "Jukebox Jury"; and

WHEREAS, Her first television success was the role of Charmaine "Schultzzy" Schultz, the razor-tongued secretary/assistant to the main character, a handsome, swinging bachelor photographer always chasing beautiful women on "The Bob Cummings Show"; this role earned her the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series in 1958 and again in 1959; and

WHEREAS, After the series ended in 1959, Ann B. Davis appeared in such movies as "A Man Called Peter," "Lover Come Back" and "All Hands on Deck"; and

WHEREAS, Her talents were recognized on February 9, 1960, when Ann B. Davis was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Between her two better-known shows, Ann B. Davis accepted the role as a gym teacher at an exclusive girls' school in 1965-1966 in "The John Forsythe Show"; once again, earning acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1969, Ann B. Davis played housekeeper Alice Nelson in "The Brady Bunch" television series which aired until 1974; she later returned to take part in various Brady Bunch television movies, including "The Brady Girls Get Married" (1981) and "A Very Brady Christmas" (1988); she also reprised her role as Alice Nelson in two short-lived Brady Bunch spin-off television series: "The Brady Brides" (1981) and "The Bradys" (1990); and

WHEREAS, Immediately following its last show, "The Brady Bunch" began airing in syndication as reruns; since then it has never left the airwaves and has been airing somewhere around the world ever since; with so many lessons to learn and laughs to enjoy, it is very likely "The Brady Bunch" will continue to have universal appeal long into the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, During her stints in "The Bob Cummings Show" and "The Brady Bunch," she used the layoffs to appear in summer theater with such shows as "Three on a Honeymoon"; furthermore, Ann B. Davis toured with the USO to entertain U.S. troops in Korea and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, after a long sabbatical, Ann B. Davis focused on theater, performing in a production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" and a

world tour production of "Crazy for You", a musical featuring the songs of George and Ira Gershwin; and

WHEREAS, Ann B. Davis never completely retired from acting; in her later years, she was the celebrity spokeswoman in several Shake 'n Bake

commercials, and also appeared in several advertisements for Swiffer;
and

WHEREAS, A devoted Episcopalian, Ann B. Davis led a quiet religious life, volunteering much of her time and energies to the Episcopal Church, and working at its General Convention; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to remember the life and accomplishments of great actresses such as Ann B. Davis, whose role as Alice on the popular television sitcom "The Brady Bunch" has been and is still today being enjoyed by millions of fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize the life and career of Emmy-winning actress Ann B. Davis, famous for her role as Alice on "The Brady Bunch"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to longtime friends of Ann B. Davis, Bill and Barbara Frey.