

2017-J1679

Senate Resolution No. 1679

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of Martin McGuinness, dedicated leader, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those who made it their lifelong goal to bring about peace, and served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the world; and

WHEREAS, Martin McGuinness of Derry, Northern Ireland, died on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 23, 1950, Martin McGuinness made a name for himself when he joined the Provisional Irish Republican Army in 1970, working his way up to Chief of Staff by 1972; and

WHEREAS, Fighting against oppression and working towards the end of British rule in Northern Ireland, Martin McGuinness was actively involved in negotiations and peace talks; while initially believing that British presence in Ireland could only be ended by armed struggle, he later became a passionate believer in compromise, leading the republican movement away from violence; and

WHEREAS, Martin McGuinness was one of the main architects of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement; this

arrangement formally cemented the Northern Ireland peace process, and contained proposals for a Northern Ireland Assembly with a power-sharing executive, new cross-border institutions with the Republic of Ireland and a body linking devolving assemblies across the United Kingdom with Westminster and Dublin; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of this significant agreement, Martin McGuinness went on to be the Minister of Education from December 2, 1999 to October 14, 2002; in 2007, he became a leader of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland, a position he held until January of 2017; and

WHEREAS, After spending his life in selfless service, enduring decades of struggle, showing a remarkable resolve and unstoppable commitment, Martin McGuinness will be remembered as a fearless peacemaker, a patriot, and an admired comrade and leader; and

WHEREAS, Martin McGuinness is survived by his wife Bernadette Canning McGuinness, and his four children, Grainne McGuinness, Fionnuala McGuinness, Fiachra McGuinness and Emmett McGuinness; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Martin McGuinness leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Martin McGuinness, dedicated leader, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Martin McGuinness.