

2013-J593

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Mary Joan Koonz Egan, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, The State of New York is deeply saddened by the death of its esteemed residents; and

WHEREAS, Mary Joan Koonz Egan passed away on February 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mary was born on June 22, 1919, the daughter of Casper and Mary Koonz; and

WHEREAS, Due to her hard work and dedication to her studies, she graduated the Academy of Holy Names at the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, In 1940, Mary received a degree in library science from the New York State Teachers College, now the University at Albany; she was also honored with the Agnes Feutrer Award for her remarkable acting talent; and

WHEREAS, She began her distinguished career in New York City, working for Major Seversky, author of VICTORY THROUGH AIR POWER, and was later employed by the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mary spent several years making a loving home for her family, and then returned to work as a librarian at the University at Albany, her alma mater, where she also registered as a student; she earned a Masters in Education and a Masters in Educational Administration; and

WHEREAS, She then served in various library positions for the Albany Public Library, Albany Medical Center, several schools in Schenectady, and the Shenendehowa Central School District; and

WHEREAS, Mary was a beloved member of the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District community, serving as Director of Library and Media Services from 1961 until her retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, During her distinguished tenure, the district was recognized

with the Encyclopedia Britannica Award for the greatest improvement in elementary schools in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mary was also recognized with the New York Libraries Association's Outstanding School Library Innovation Award, the Excellence in Education Award from the University at Albany, and inclusion in the seventh edition of Who's Who of American Women; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she was renowned as the writer, producer, and host of a series of televised library skills lessons on WRGB and later on PBS; the series ran for more than 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Mary contributed her time and expertise as President of the School Library Media Section of the State Library Association, as State Chairman of the Junior Great Books Program, and as adjunct professor at the University at Albany; and

WHEREAS, She was an accomplished author, having written articles in "School Library Journal" and "Instructor" magazines and a book entitled BILLY'S VILLAGE; at the time of her death, she was working on another book, MARY'S CITY; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, William Egan, Mary Joan Koonz Egan is survived by four daughters, Maureen Buhrmaster, Eileen Mach, Tracy Egan, and Margaret Cummings; six grandchildren, Kate Buhrmaster, Sarah Buhrmaster, Timothy Mack, Maura Mack Hisgen, Bridget Blythe Briere, and Emmie Cummings; and three great-grandchildren, Maeve Hisgen, Caroline Mack, and Katharine Hisgen; and

WHEREAS, Her memory will forever be honored by the legacy she left through her extraordinary dedication to education and her community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Mary Joan Koonz Egan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Mary Joan Koonz Egan.