

## 2009-J2986

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of United States Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, the third longest-serving member of the United States Senate in American history

WHEREAS, In this time of national mourning, this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to honor the life and the service of United States Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, a man of unquestioned character, integrity, and true defender of the American dream who had a profound and lasting impact upon our Nation; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, August 25, 2009, Edward (Ted) Kennedy died at his home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, The heartfelt condolences of this Legislative Body are offered with sympathy and respect to the family of Senator Ted Kennedy, his wife, Vicki, and his five children Kara, Edward Jr., Patrick, Curran and Caroline; and

WHEREAS, Known as the liberal lion of the US Senate, Ted Kennedy was known as a champion for equal justice for every American, but especially for those who were left out and left behind; he was instrumental for his contributions to the causes of voting and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Born in Boston, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Harvard University, Ted Kennedy played as a Senior Right End for the school's football team in 1955; his promise on the football field had caught the notice of Green Bay Packer Head Coach Lisle Blackbourn, and he was highly recommended by a number of coaches and talent scouts as a possible Pro Prospect, but Ted Kennedy declined in order to attend law school at the University of Virginia and soon thereafter launched his political career; and

WHEREAS, With the tragic loss of his beloved older brothers, John in

1963 and Robert in 1968, Ted Kennedy was thrust to the forefront of an immensely powerful political family; and

WHEREAS, During his eight terms in the Senate representing Massachusetts, Ted Kennedy rose to become one of the Democratic Party's most powerful and eloquent legislators; he was praised for his unyieldingly liberal positions on various issues; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health, and economic well-being of the American people bore Ted Kennedy's name and resulted from his efforts; he fought for and won so many great battles for voting rights, education, immigration reform, minimum wage, national service, and the nation's first major legislation to combat AIDS; in addition, he sought equality for minorities, women, the disabled, and gay Americans; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ted Kennedy succeeded in bringing quality and affordable health care for countless Americans, including children, seniors and Americans with disabilities; he stood for human rights abroad from Chile to the former Soviet Union, and was a leader in the cause of poverty relief for the poorest nations of Africa and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, A believer in a strong national defense, Ted Kennedy unceasingly pursued and advanced the work of nuclear arms control; he was the conscience of the Democratic party, and also the Senate's greatest master of forging compromise with the Republican party; he was widely respected on both sides of the aisle for his commitment to progress and his ability to legislate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ted Kennedy was Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees; previously, he was Chairman of the

Senate Judiciary Committee, and served on that committee for many years; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Senator Ted Kennedy served on the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee; he

was a leader of the Congressional Friends of Ireland and helped lead the way toward peace on that island; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ted Kennedy's support of Barack Obama as the Democratic nominee for president was seen as a key factor in determining President Obama's election as the nation's first African-American to serve in the White House; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of United States Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, the third longest-serving member of the United States Senate in American history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy.