

2011-K336

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martha MacGuffie, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martha MacGuffie of New City, New York, died on Monday, March 7, 2011, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as Bobby, Dr. Martha MacGuffie distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, The first female reconstructive surgeon to graduate from Columbia Medical School, Dr. Martha MacGuffie treated thousands of local residents in Rockland County and gained a reputation as a compassionate physician who would never turn a patient away; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martha MacGuffie helped establish the burn unit at Nyack Hospital; her medical advancements included developing a waterbed that eased the notorious pain suffered by burn patients; she was a familiar sight at accident scenes, stopping to help first responders treat injury victims; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martha MacGuffie's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A frequent visitor to local schools, Dr. MacGuffie often spoke to groups of young people, encouraging them to get involved and make a difference in the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martha MacGuffie's legacy reaches far beyond the Lower Hudson Valley to Africa where she ventured during the heart of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s in an effort to discover more about the disease; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, this remarkable surgeon founded the Society for Hospital and Resources Exchange (SHARE); this nonprofit organization

helped to establish an orphanage, clinics, and a hospital in Kenya, as well as trained local medical providers; furthermore, SHARE created a women's empowerment project; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martha MacGuffie also volunteered with AmeriCares in Rwanda in 1994, when a campaign of genocide decimated the country; she started performing surgery in the clinics set up there, and was credited with saving countless lives during her mission; and

WHEREAS, After more than 50 years of practicing medicine and her retirement in 2008, Dr. Martha MacGuffie made regular trips to Kenya to check on the progress of the institutions she founded and the people she came to love; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Dr. Martha MacGuffie 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 pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martha MacGuffie, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Martha MacGuffie and to SHARE.