

2011-J1901

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Mary E. Dumas, 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, Mary E. Dumas of Albany, New York, died on Saturday, August 21, 2010, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as Maureen or Mo, Mary E. Dumas was born in Albany, the oldest child of the late Charles and Ellen MacGowan; and

WHEREAS, Maureen E. Dumas' commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding woman was fond of saying she had many lives: one life was her family; one life was theater; another was political; yet another was anti-poverty and community action; and

WHEREAS, She was actively involved in the Albany Civic Theater (ACT) throughout the 1960s and 1970s, beginning with its days on Beaver Street and continuing through the acquisition and outfitting of the current theater on Second Avenue; and

WHEREAS, With her good friend, the late Nick Toscano, Maureen E. Dumas did the makeup for the Legislative Correspondents Association (LCA) Show from 1971 through 2005; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, she was named to the Private Industry Council by former Mayor Erastus Corning II; in 1980, she ran for New York State Senate against Senator Howard Nolan; she lost, but by the slimmest margin that Senator Nolan ever held against a challenger; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Maureen E. Dumas was named by Senate Majority Leader Warren B. Anderson to the Community Services Block Grant Management Plan's Advisory Council, a program that reviewed applications for government funding for such programs for the poor as health services, nutrition, and housing and employment; a position which she held for

more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, she was awarded the YWCA's Tribute to Women Award; at the time of the award, Maureen was the president of the National Association of Community Action Agency Board of Directors and provided leadership for the Albany County Head Start Program, Albany County Opportunity, Inc., the New York State Department of State Policy Advisory Committee for Weatherization, and was involved with local implementation of the Job Training Partnership Act - Private Industry Council; and

WHEREAS, She was actively involved in the Irish Perceptions Series through the Albany Chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute, of which she was a founding member, the Albany City Arts Office, and Centro Civico Hispano-Americano; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Mary E. Dumas helped to bring the Festival of Nations to the area; in 1988, she organized the Governor Thomas Dongan Feis, an Irish dance festival that she continued to run and worked with for many years; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Mary E. Dumas received the Maude Gonne MacBride Award from the New York State Irish Northern Aid Committee for her work in bringing Irish culture to the area; and

WHEREAS, The following year, she received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Keeper of the Dream" Award from the EOC/CEDS of Nassau County for her Outstanding Commitment and Contributions to Empowering Individuals, Families and Communities through Community Action in New York State; as

part of this award, she was given a bronze bust of Dr. King which was displayed proudly in her home; and

WHEREAS, Mary E. Dumas was a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, JFK Division No. 1 for many years, and a member and past president of the Albany Kiwanis; and

WHEREAS, Maureen E. Dumas distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Mary E. Dumas retired from the New York State Senate where she worked for nearly 40 years; she started in the steno pool and worked for Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges, Senate Majority Leader Warren B. Anderson, and Senator Joseph Pisani, among others, ending her career working in Constituent Relations; and

WHEREAS, Following her retirement, she volunteered at her good friend Father Peter Young's Altamont Program, serving on the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Eugene Dumas, her two brothers, Francis (Patricia) MacGowan and Charles (Barbara) MacGowan, and one sister, Elizabeth (Joseph) Zappone, Mary E. Dumas is survived by her three children, Ellen (Michael) Porcari, Jean (Robert) Pelton, and Paul (Linda) Dumas; her grandchildren, Steven Magee, Bryan Magee, Mary Beth (Mark) Ketzer, Annie Dumas, and Paul Dumas Jr.; two great-grandchildren, Bryan Magee Jr. and Helen Ketzer; one sister, Patricia (William) Cohen; her special cousin and friend, Lee Smith; and her nieces and nephews, Keith (Kate) Cohen, Gina (Kenneth) Szesznat, Christine (Christopher) Lenahan, Joseph (Paula) Zappone Jr., Elizabeth Zappone, Charles MacGowan IV, and Rosalie MacGowan; as well as a dozen more great-nieces and nephews, and many more relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Maureen E. Dumas 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 mourn the death of Mary E. Dumas, 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 Mary E. Dumas.