

2021-J35

Senate Resolution No. 35

BY: Senator KAPLAN

MOURNING the death of The Honorable Elaine Jackson Stack, dedicated public servant and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, served to better the quality of life in their community and had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Elaine Jackson Stack was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Elaine Jackson Stack of Mineola and Shelter Island, New York, died on Saturday, December 19, 2020, at the age of 89, due to complications related to the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Jackson Stack was a proud mother of four children who did not begin her illustrious career as a prosecutor, defense lawyer, village deputy mayor, and judge until the age of 48; and

WHEREAS, Until her death, she was part of a panel that adjudicated allegations of lawyer misconduct; she was also of-counsel and head of family and divorce mediation for the Garden City law firm Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco, capping a four-decade-long career in Long Island's legal system on the bench and at the bar; and

WHEREAS, At the Nassau County district attorney's office, Elaine Jackson Stack rose to the position of Deputy Chief of the Rackets Bureau before becoming a defense lawyer where she specialized in appeals; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Jackson Stack, who grew up during a time when women could not take professional opportunities for granted, was truly an inspiration to all the women she met while she was serving as a lawyer, educator and judge; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Elaine Jackson Stack was elected to Nassau's District Court; four years later, she won election to the State Supreme Court and was assigned to the matrimonial part, where she heard divorce, property and custody cases; and

WHEREAS, Several years before becoming a judge, Elaine Jackson Stack was Long Island's representative to a statewide committee screening lawyers for defendants facing the death penalty before the state ended capital punishment; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2005, she served on the Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services, and the Special Commission on the Future of New York State Courts; she left the bench in 2007 after reaching 76, the state's mandatory retirement age for judges; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Jackson, who went by Jackie, was born October 27, 1931, in the South Bronx, the last of three children of the former Elsa Kamioner, a bookkeeper for New York City, and Bernard Jackson, who worked in hotel catering; and

WHEREAS, Raised in the South Bronx, Elaine Jackson graduated early, at the age of 16, in 1947 from Manhattan's Hunter High School, which was then a girls school for the intellectually gifted; she started college

at Hunter, but left before graduating when her Mom had a stroke, and she went to work to support her family; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, Elaine Jackson met her future husband, Norman Stack, on the sands of Long Beach, New York; and

WHEREAS, The couple married two years later, and soon after, Norman was drafted into the United States Army; they lived in Bamberg, Germany, for two years where he was stationed, then returned to the United States, residing with his parents in Jamaica Estates, Queens; and

WHEREAS, The young couple later bought a house in Roslyn Heights and later moved to East Hills, where, in the late 1980s into the mid-1990s, Elaine Jackson Stack would be the Trustee, Deputy Mayor, and a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, While raising her family, Elaine Jackson Stack spoke a lot about the idea of returning to college; subsequently, in 1971, she completed her studies from what was then C.W. Post College of Long Island University; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Jackson Stack then studied library science at the campus, and graduated in 1973, before she finished St. John's University law school in 1979, a year before her youngest child graduated from high school; that same year, she joined the district attorney's office and was there until leaving in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Over a long and preeminent career, Elaine Jackson Stack distinguished herself and her profession, serving tirelessly in the administration of the law, while diligently guarding over the rights of the citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Norman Stack in 1992, and her partner, Sanford L. Goldsmith in 2015, Elaine Jackson Stack is survived by her four children, Ron Stack, Brenda Stack Freed, Dede Stack Unger, and Claudia Stack Strobing; as well as 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Jackson Stack will be remembered as a revered lawyer, educator and judge, but more importantly as a courteous, thoughtful, and compassionate woman who treated people with respect and dignity; she will be truly missed by all those who had the privilege and honor of knowing her; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of The Honorable Elaine Jackson Stack, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Elaine Jackson Stack.