

2021-J1120

Senate Resolution No. 1120

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Gavin MacLeod, renowned actor, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Gavin MacLeod, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod, a beloved sitcom veteran who played seaman "Happy" Haines on "McHale's Navy," news writer Murray Slaughter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and Captain Merrill Stubing on "The Love Boat," died on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod played a relatively minor character on the ABC hit "McHale's Navy," but as news writer Murray Slaughter, he was certainly one of the stars of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," appearing in every one of the classic comedy's 168 episodes during its 1970-77 run on CBS; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod had the great fortune to roll right from one hit show to another in 1977, when "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" ended and ABC's "The Love Boat" began; the hour-long romantic comedy set on a cruise ship ran for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod's Captain Stubing was known for his signature salute, and even after the end of the voyage in 1987, the actor returned for telepic "The Love Boat: A Valentine Voyage" in 1990, and for the "Reunion" episode of rebooted series "Love Boat: The Next Wave" in 1998; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary actor may, indeed, hold a record for consecutive long-running series, as he went straight from "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" with 168 episodes, to "The Love Boat" with 249 episodes; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod was born Allan George See in Mount Kisco, New York; his mother worked for Reader's Digest, while his father was an electrician who was part Chippewa; he grew up in Pleasantville, New York and attended Ithaca College, where he studied acting and graduated in 1952; and

WHEREAS, After proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Air Force, Gavin MacLeod moved to New York City and worked at Radio City Music Hall as an usher and elevator operator while seeking work as an actor; it was during this time he changed his name; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod made his credited big screen debut in the 1958 Susan Hayward vehicle "I Want to Live," playing a police lieutenant, before playing a G.I. in Gregory Peck starrer "Pork Chop Hill" the next year; his supporting role in Blake Edwards' WWII comedy "Operation Petticoat," focusing on the chaotic goings on aboard a

submarine, gave the young actor a flavor of what he would be doing a few years later on "McHale's Navy"; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Gavin MacLeod appeared in the 1960 thriller "Twelve Hours to Kill," which starred future "I Dream of Jeannie" star Barbara Eden; Blake Edwards' musical comedy "High Time," starring Bing Crosby and Fabian; and the critically hailed Korean War film "War Hunt"; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod left "McHale's Navy" to appear in a supporting role in the adventure film "The Sand Pebbles"; he also appeared in a number of other films throughout the decade and began making guest appearances on both dramas and comedies; in December of 1961, he guested on "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in what was his first time working with Mary Tyler Moore; and

WHEREAS, More recently, Gavin MacLeod made a lasting impression in a 2000 episode of HBO prison drama "Oz" in which he played the Roman Catholic Cardinal Frances Abgott; the actor had assumed a certain gravitas as Captain Stubing, even amid the silliness of "The Love Boat," that made this role possible in a way that it could not have been before; and

WHEREAS, In the 2000s, Gavin MacLeod also appeared on such series as, "The King of Queens," "JAG," "Touched by an Angel" and "That '70s Show"; and

WHEREAS, Gavin MacLeod was first married, from 1955-1972, to Joan Rootvik, with whom he had two sons and two daughters; he then married actress Patti Kendig in 1974; the couple divorced in 1982 but remarried in 1985; and

WHEREAS, During the mid-1980s, Gavin MacLeod and his wife became Evangelical Christians and the pair credited the religion for reuniting them; he wrote about it in his 1987 book, *Back on Course, the Remarkable Story of a Divorce That Ended in Remarriage*; he and Patti appeared in the Christian big-screen time-travel epic "Time Changer," along with Hal Linden, in 2002, and he played the title role in the 2008 Christian film "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry"; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, his memoir, "This Is Your Captain Speaking: My Fantastic Voyage Through Hollywood, Faith and Life," was published in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Survived by his wife and four children, Gavin MacLeod's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his family's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Gavin MacLeod leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be

deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Gavin MacLeod, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Gavin MacLeod.