

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 170

Approved April 24, 2023

WHEREAS, On Saturday, April 15th, 2023, Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin passed away at age 58; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin represented the 1st Senate District since 1987. She has been a tireless advocate for the residents of Smith Hill, the North End, and the people of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin was a strong advocate for education, healthcare, and the environment, and worked tirelessly to protect the rights of all Rhode Islanders. She was a champion for paid sick leave, preventing domestic abusers from possessing firearms, and after years of opposing legislation for same-sex marriage, acknowledged a change of heart and voted “on the side of love”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin after being diagnosed with colorectal cancer introduced legislation that required full insurance coverage for colorectal screening. The legislation was signed into law in April 2021 and became known as the “Maryellen Goodwin Colorectal Cancer Screening Act”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin was the second-longest-serving member of the chamber with almost 40 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin was an active member of the Irish community in Rhode Island, supporting countless initiatives to promote her Irish heritage, she was named the Honorary Grand Marshall for the 2021 Providence Saint Patrick’s Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work with the state legislature, Senator Goodwin also served the people of Providence through her many years as an employee of the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin served as chair of the Providence Democratic City Committee, a post she often joked was the one her late father, Thomas Goodwin, was most proud of; and

WHEREAS, Among the numerous associations and organizations that awarded Maryellen for her commitment to her community were: the American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network, Leading Age Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition, Rhode Island Partnership For Home Care, Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, MADD, Cesar Estrada Chavez Award Committee, American Heart Association, Rhode Island Dermatology Society, Volunteers in Providence Schools, Rhode Island Catholic Schools Parents Federation, Special Olympics Rhode Island, Elmhurst, and Mt. Pleasant Little League, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Crossroads Rhode Island, National Guard Association, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island, and the Manitoba Association of Math Teachers; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin's passing is a great loss to the State of Rhode Island and the legislative community, as well as to her family and friends, who will miss her deeply; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin's legacy will live on through her many contributions to the state of Rhode Island and her unwavering commitment to the people she served; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodwin was courageous, a trailblazer, and put everyone at ease with her sense of humor and warm smile; and

WHEREAS, She leaves two devoted sisters, Sheila A. Connelly (Paul R.) and Maureen P. LaRocque (Jeffrey P.) both of North Providence. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, who were the light of her life and brought her joy, laughter, and unending love: Marygrace H, Teresa R, John (Jack) P. LaRocque, and Liam T. Connelly. She also leaves behind Aunts Ellen Myers, Catherine Murphy, and Elizabeth Hynes, cherished cousins, as well as countless family, friends, and loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of State Senator Maryellen Goodwin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council honors the life and memory of Senator Maryellen Goodwin by recognizing her lifetime of service to the City and state and her dedication to the betterment of the lives of her constituents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, the family of State Senator Maryellen Goodwin, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, Governor Daniel McKee, House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi and the RI Congressional Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 20 2023

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 4/24/2023