

Assembly Resolution No. 703

**BY:** M. of A. Santabarbara

**CELEBRATING** the life of Mary Ann Devane Allen, renowned attorney and special needs advocate, devoted mother, and distinguished member of her 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; Mary Ann Devane Allen was one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Mary Ann Devane Allen, noting the significance of her purposeful life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Ann Devane Allen of Slingerlands, New York, died on May 16, 2022, at the age of 66; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Albany, New York, to Mary Patricia Whalen Devane and the late Thomas A. Devane Jr., Mary Ann Devane graduated magna cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa from St. Lawrence University with her Bachelor's degree in Government and English; she went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree cum laude from Albany Law School; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon the completion of her education, Mary Ann Devane Allen pursued distinguished careers in law and special needs advocacy; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Ann Devane Allen began her first career as an associate attorney at Nixon, Hargrave, Devans, & Doyle, LLP, in Rochester, New York; following her marriage, she returned to Albany, and joined Bouck, Holloway, Kiernan, & Casey, LLP, where she eventually became partner; and

**WHEREAS,** Well respected throughout her legal career for her expertise in defense of property claims involving arson, Mary Ann Devane Allen subsequently became a founding partner at Allen, Johnson, & Lonergan; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2001, after serving for several years as President of the Board of Directors of Wildwood Programs, Inc., an organization dedicated to providing services for children and adults with developmental disabilities, Mary Ann Devane Allen joined Wildwood as its Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director; and

**WHEREAS,** In this role, Mary Ann Devane Allen leveraged her legal expertise, as well as her personal experience as the mother of a child with autism, to help enhance the lives of countless individuals with special needs and their families; and

**WHEREAS,** During her exemplary career at Wildwood, which ended upon

her retirement in December 2020, Mary Ann Devane Allen was recognized throughout the community as a tireless advocate for individuals with special needs and a cherished mentor to many; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Ann Devane Allen believed strongly in service to her community, and in addition to her prior service as President of the Wildwood Board of Directors, she was a member of the Board of Trustees at the Academy of the Holy Names and a volunteer with Family Promise of the Capital Region; and

**WHEREAS,** Known for her remarkable dedication to her family, Mary Ann Devane Allen firmly believed that her role as a mother was her greatest accomplishment; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Ann Devane Allen is survived by her beloved husband, John L. Allen; and her cherished children, Matthew John Allen, Sarah Broderick Allen, and Molly Bowman Allen; she is also survived by her mother, Mary Patricia Devane; and siblings, Thomas A. Devane III, Patricia Smith (Thomas), Maureen Kipper (Carl), Daniel Devane (Sharon), Brian Devane (Elizabeth) and Kathleen Fouracre (Douglas); as well as many deeply loved nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins; she was predeceased by her beloved father, Thomas A. Devane Jr.; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Ann Devane Allen's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Mary Ann Devane Allen 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 woman; she 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 celebrate the life of Mary Ann Devane Allen, 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 Mary Ann Devane Allen.