

**BY:** Senator SERRANO

**MOURNING** the death of Mary Eileen Fitzgerald, a dedicated Bronxite, pioneering and distinguished detective with the NYPD, and devoted member of the community

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and service have greatly contributed to the betterment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Eileen Fitzgerald, a resident of Roosevelt Island, died on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the age of 98; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in the Bronx on January 17, 1923, to parents who immigrated from Ireland, Mary Eileen Fitzgerald was a life-time resident of New York City; she rose from humble beginnings; her mother famously arrived from Ireland with \$1.25 to her name and her father passed away suddenly during the throes of the Depression when she was only 15; and

**WHEREAS,** After high school graduation, Mary Eileen Fitzgerald forwent an opportunity to attend Hunter College to join the workforce to support herself and her mother; she operated a comptometer, an early mechanical calculating machine, making little money and providing little opportunity for advancement; her interest was piqued when a coworker one day suggested that she take the exam for policewomen; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1952, Mary Eileen Fitzgerald took her Civil Service test to become a police officer, marking only the second time that women had been eligible to test for police positions; today, the NYPD counts over 6,500 female officers among its ranks; she scored highly on her exam, was fast-tracked through the police academy and sworn in as a member of the New York Police Department in December of 1952; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Eileen Fitzgerald led a pioneering and illustrious 31-year career serving the citizens of New York with the NYPD; she broke down barriers on the Pickpocket Squad and then in the Intelligence Division; she was promoted to Detective in 1959, and promoted again to Detective Second Grade in 1968; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Eileen Fitzgerald also won the June 1971 "Cop of the Month" award, served in the Bureau of Policewomen, the Queens District Attorney's Squad, the Special Frauds Squad and the Office of the Chief of Detectives; and

**WHEREAS,** During her time in the NYPD, Mary Eileen Fitzgerald was tasked with protecting several of the 20th Century's most iconic women, from Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir and Queen Sophia of Spain, to First Ladies Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson and Nancy Reagan; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Eileen Fitzgerald retired from the NYPD in 1983 at the

age of 60 to her residence on Roosevelt Island where she remained active in volunteer work both on Roosevelt Island and in Manhattan; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2018, this distinguished Legislative Body recognized Mary Eileen Fitzgerald as a New York State Woman of Distinction for her pioneering career and lifelong dedication to her community; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary Eileen Fitzgerald is survived by her nephews, Peter, Mark, and Vincent; niece, Jeanne; two grand-nieces, Lauren and Marissa Fitzgerald; and grand-nephew, John Fitzgerald, as well as countless friends and neighbors who will long cherish her memory; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Mary Eileen Fitzgerald, 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 Eileen Fitzgerald.