

BY: Senator BIAGGI

MOURNING the death of Jenna Ellen Melanson,
distinguished educator and devoted member of her
community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Ellen Melanson of Brooklyn, New York, died on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the age of 37; and

WHEREAS, Born on February 17, 1984, in North Adams, Massachusetts, Jenna Ellen Melanson was the daughter of Suzanne Sinclitico Salerno and Dean Melanson; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Ellen Melanson graduated from Mt. Greylock High School in 2002, before graduating from MCLA, Class of 2006; and

WHEREAS, After college, Jenna Ellen Melanson worked in the North Adams School System as a teacher's aide; her interest was working with special need children; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Jenna Ellen Melanson moved to New York City to further her education attending Brooklyn College where she received an advance autism certification; two years later, she was excepted into the Master of Social Work program at Fordham University where she would have graduated from in May of this year; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Ellen Melanson distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Ellen Melanson's lifelong dream was to "Save the World" and help others; anyone who knew her knew of her willingness to assist others and to always go the extra mile; and

WHEREAS, Jenna Ellen Melanson had a crazy laugh and a love for politics; through her Fordham Master of Social Work program, she worked as an intern for New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi from the Fall of 2020 until March of 2021; in her honor, the Senator's District Office Intern Program will be named the Jenna Melanson Intern Program; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her grandparents, Louis "Pappa" and Constance "Nonnie" Sinclitico, her Aunt Joan Brightman, Grandfather Lloyd Melanson, and Step Father Joe Salerno, Jenna Ellen Melanson is survived by her wife, Jaimie (Jones) Melanson who she married September 22, 2017; her brother, Chad Melanson and his wife, Gift, and their daughter, Brianna; two aunts, Diane Dickerman and her husband, Charlie, and Julie Hanify who Jenna lived with for several years in Hancock; and

her grandmother, Carol Melanson; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Jenna Ellen Melanson leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; she will be truly missed by many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Jenna Ellen Melanson, and to express its most sincere condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jenna Ellen Melanson.