

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of Dr. Laura D. Harckham, distinguished educator, community advocate and longtime resident of Rockland County

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to individuals of great character whose lives exemplified selfless service to their community and whose accomplishments leave a lasting legacy; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is moved to mourn the passing of Dr. Laura D. Harckham, a distinguished educator, community advocate, and longtime resident of Rockland County, New York, who died on March 3, 2025, at the age of 98; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in the City of New York in 1926, Laura D. Harckham was a product of the city's vibrant intellectual life; she earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Queens College and later attained a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Fordham University, marking the beginning of a remarkable career in higher education; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout her career, Dr. Laura D. Harckham taught educational testing at several colleges and universities, served with distinction as a dean at Rockland Community College, consulted for school districts, and mentored doctoral candidates, thereby shaping the minds and lives of countless students and educators; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Laura D. Harckham and her beloved husband of 67 years, Arthur Harckham, raised their family in Rockland County, where they were active members of the community; they later relocated to Connecticut, but her contributions and ties to Rockland remained enduring; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to her professional endeavors, Dr. Laura D. Harckham was deeply committed to civic causes; she championed civil rights and mental health, supported integration efforts, served with the League of Women Voters in Dallas, Texas, and played a vital role on the library board in New City, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** A woman of broad interests and boundless energy, Dr. Laura D. Harckham was an avid reader, an enthusiastic traveler, and a lover of tennis, dining, and spirited gatherings with family and friends; she will also be affectionately remembered for her fondness for chocolate and her good-natured battles over lobster rolls with her great-granddaughter, Phoebe; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Laura D. Harckham's memory will be cherished by her loving family, including her sons, Jared (Alejandro Hernandez), Finley (Palmer Sloan), and Peter (Jin Hee Stevens); her five grandchildren, Spike (Eleni Petrow), Heath (Malorie Cunningham), Haley (Tim McDermott), Emma (Mike Dixon), and Kate (Ryan Frantzis); and her great-granddaughter, Phoebe, along with two more great-grandchildren expected in June; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Laura D. Harckham leaves behind a legacy of compassion, intelligence, and public service 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 mourn the death of Dr. Laura D. Harckham, 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 Dr. Laura D. Harckham.