

As Adopted by the Senate

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. R. No. 194

Senators Antonio, McColley

Cosponsors: Senators Blackshear, Blessing, Brenner, Chavez, Cirino, Craig, Cutrona, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Huffman, Ingram, Johnson, Koehler, Landis, Lang, Liston, Manchester, Manning, O'Brien, Patton, Reineke, Reynolds, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, Timken, Weinstein, Wilkin, Wilson

A RESOLUTION

In memory of Mary Rose Oakar.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 136th General Assembly of Ohio were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mary Rose Oakar and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mary Rose Oakar left an indelible impression on the people whose lives she touched, and she will be remembered as a spirited individual who contributed immeasurably to the world around her. Widely renowned for her prolific career in public service, she served three years on the Cleveland City Council and then sixteen years in the U.S. House of Representatives serving Ohio's 20th District, where she was instrumental in supporting legislation affecting women's and elder issues, government employees, Social Security, and fair compensation as well as securing resources for the revitalization of downtown Cleveland and the surrounding area, and she was the first Democratic woman from Ohio, Arab-American woman, Syrian-American, and Lebanese-American woman to be elected to this position. She went on to be sworn in to the Ohio House of Representatives and then to hold the posts of member of the Ohio State Board of Education and president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. Indeed, she will be remembered for her generosity, talents, and seemingly inexhaustible energy; and

WHEREAS, Mary Rose Oakar was an educator at Lourdes Academy and

Cuyahoga Community College, a devoted Catholic, and a lifelong 23
parishioner of St. Patrick Bridge Avenue, and her regard for improving 24
the quality of life in our society was clearly evident in her personal 25
sacrifices of time and effort to family, friends, and community. 26
Giving generously of her time and abilities in all of her endeavors, 27
she displayed exceptional concern and insight, and her absence will be 28
keenly felt; and 29

WHEREAS, A loving sister, aunt, cousin, and friend, Mary Rose 30
Oakar always used her talents to the benefit of others, and the warmth 31
and understanding she readily extended to those around her will stand 32
as a testament to her personal character. Although the void which her 33
death has created can never be filled, the legacy of care and 34
commitment she established will surely live on; therefore be it 35

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 136th General 36
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, pay tribute to the 37
memory of a truly honorable woman, Mary Rose Oakar; and be it further 38

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 39
authenticated copy of this Resolution to the family of Mary Rose 40
Oakar. 41