Adjourn In Memory of Mary Lou Petitt

The Senator from Cape and the Islands, Mr. Cyr, moves that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mary Lou Petitt of Eastham.

Mrs. Petitt passed away on July 31, 2017. She was 90 years old.

Mrs. Petitt began her life in public service when she attended the 1963 March on Washington and heard Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.’s call to action of “the fierce urgency of now”. A longtime activist, she worked on housing issues and was a 50 year member of the League of Women Voters serving both in New Jersey and Cape Cod. She was a dedicated community organizer and founding member of Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod, Community Development Partnership / CDP, Homeless Prevention Council, Cape Cod Children’s Place, Lower Outer Cape Community Coalition, and the Flex Bus.

Mrs. Petitt served for five years on the Eastham Housing Authority board and fourteen years as Eastham’s Representative to the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates. She was also the recipient of several awards: The CDP’s Gwen Pelletier Award, The Presbrey Public Service Award, and the 2014 Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year award. She was dedicated to the lives of the homeless, elderly, and minorities and continued to be involved in her community even during the last year of her life.

Mrs. Petitt’s passions included travel, the theater, books, family, friends, faith, and community service. She is pre-deceased by her late husband William Petitt but is survived by her three children, Stephen Petitt and his wife Yulia of Cotuit, MA, James Petitt of Brewster, MA, Julia Quigley and husband John of Orleans, MA, as well as four grandchildren Katie Petitt-Quigley and James Quigley of Orleans MA, Michael Quigley of South Boston, MA and Lindsey Petitt of Chicago, IL.

May we reflect on Mrs. Petitt’s commitment to her friends, family, and community.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect in memory of Mary Lou Petitt, at twenty-five minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Tuesday next at eleven o’clock A.M.