

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1848

A RESOLUTION honoring the life and legacy of Ethel May Miller.

WHEREAS, Topeka Association for Retarded Citizens (TARC) has been blessed by many families and supporters over its past 56 years, but none have had the influence and impact on services for persons with mental retardation in the Topeka community and beyond as Ethel May Miller, TARC's first Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Ethel May Miller was born in 1918 in Topeka, the daughter of Albert and Winifred Schober. She graduated from Topeka High School in 1936 and received a Bachelor's Degree from Ottawa University in 1940, graduating with the highest grade point average in her class. She was named Topeka's "Woman of the Year" in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Ethel May married Adrian Miller on June 12, 1940 in Topeka and he preceded her in death on October 27, 1995. She was also preceded in death by an infant son, Donald Adrian. Ethel May died on Thursday, January 28, 2010, in Topeka, at the age of 91. Her loving devotion to her family will be missed by her daughters, Nancy Lynne Miller and Marcia Ann Miller and by her son and daughter-in-law Michael Adrian and Rhonda Miller, all of Topeka; three granddaughters, one grandson; seven great-grandchildren; and a brother, Robert Schober of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her life Ethel May received outstanding community service awards, distinguished service awards and numerous volunteer awards at the local, state and national level. From 1959 through 1990, she was appointed by five different Kansas governors to every steering committee, inter-agency committee, planning council and advisory commission that the State of Kansas had on mental retardation. In 1962, she served on President Kennedy's Task Force on Mental Retardation. To round out her life she served as the Concertmaster for the Topeka Civic Symphony from 1953 through 1976; and

WHEREAS, Ethel May and other parents fought against institutionalization, which was the only option for children with mental retardation in 1954. These families knew that services needed to be changed; for example, using restraints as a means of control, only providing partial education two or three hours a week and denying opportunities which would be provided to persons without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ethel May and TARC's founding families were among those who forced mental retardation organizations out of their infancy. They believed the status quo was not a sufficient substitute for progress. They demanded that the public as a whole accept all of its members, and they were willing to work for this acceptance; and

WHEREAS, Ethel May was an inspiration in 1954 and her life remains an inspiration in 2010. Her concern and commitment brought families together and encouraged them to give of their time and talents on behalf of all children with disabilities, not merely their own. Ethel May helped the Topeka Association for Retarded Children grow from a small group of parents seeking answers to a thriving organization filled with laughter, love and hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, Her unique quality of caring about people endeared her to parents and staff. This quality lives on as the heart of TARC, which allows TARC to continue to welcome persons with disabilities and their families with understanding, and is an organization where skilled and experienced staff foster a firm belief that progress is always possible. There are no impossible dreams at TARC. The door is always open. Ethel May made sure of that; and

WHEREAS, TARC is a living legacy to Ethel May. Upon her retirement in 1976, the Community Center operated by TARC was renamed the Ethel May Miller Community Center. She was a woman of amazing grace and vision. Her values of service, support and advocacy have remained TARC's mission. Her inspiration drives all of TARC and will continue to do so into the future: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor the lifetime of dedication on behalf of persons with disabilities and their families and offer our sincerest appreciation and admiration of the life and legacy of Ethel May Miller; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Hensley.

Senate Resolution No. 1848 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Kelly and V. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*