



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Dr. Kathleen M. Wilbur has embodied the spirit of a trailblazer in her dedicated life of public service for the betterment of Michigan and her citizens; and

Whereas, Kathy began her life in public service in the administration of State Senator Bill Sederberg; and

Whereas, Kathy served Michigan through multiple gubernatorial administrations, becoming the first woman to lead three state departments during her time in state government: Licensing and Regulation, Commerce, and Consumer and Industry Services; and

Whereas, Kathy was elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees in 1984, where she served until 1991; and

Whereas, Kathy was an academic leader at Central Michigan University of 16 years, accepting the position as the university's thirteenth president on an interim basis in 2009, again, the first woman to do so; and

Whereas, Kathy was always a proud Spartan, earning her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University and heading the Office of Government Relations for MSU from 2018 until her passing;

Whereas, Kathy's dedication to the community carried over to work with not-for-profit organizations, including as a director for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, chair of the board of Michigan Future, WKAR's Reading Radio Service, The Zonta Club of East Lansing, the Women's Caring Program, and other organizations, and

Whereas, Kathy was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2007 and was received the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award in 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Citizens Research Council celebrates Kathy's accomplishments and honors her with the "Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr. Public Service Award" on this Monday, September 16, 2024.