

RESOLUTION 66

WHEREAS, the Citizens of the City of Alexandria were saddened by the passing of Miss Mary Elizabeth Switzer on Saturday, October 16, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Miss Mary Switzer was a devoted public servant, having served not only her community but the nation at large during 48 years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Miss Switzer, in pioneering in vocational rehabilitation and in becoming the Director of the Social and Rehabilitation Services (of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare) carried the largest administrative responsibility of any career woman public servant in the history of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, Miss Switzer made sweeping changes in public rehabilitation programs and made recommendations to the Congress and the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare resulting in vastly expanded and improved services to the disabled; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her hard work and dedication, the public rehabilitation program today is rehabilitating more than 240,000 disabled Americans each year for useful and rewarding work; and

WHEREAS, with all her national responsibilities she found the time and interest to put her heart into serving Alexandria as a volunteer leader on the City Board of Health, the Mayor's Committee on Health Care, the City's Special Hospital Committee, and the Committee for Study of Mental Retardation; and

WHEREAS, this self-effacing public servant--after spending a lifetime of training the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped and making them productive workers--found time to engage in further public service as a Director of the nationally-known Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C., and as Vice President of the World Rehabilitation Fund; and

WHEREAS, this inspiring and dedicated leader was recognized with honorary degrees from 16 colleges and universities and also received the Certificate of Merit from the President of the United States, the Albert Lasker Award for Contributions to International Rehabilitation Programs, the United Cerebral Palsy Distinguished Service Award, and the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award; and

WHEREAS, the City Council feels that Miss Switzer was indeed one of the finest and noblest persons ever to appear on the American scene and in Alexandria and that her life will continue to be a source of inspiration for her contemporaries for untold years to come and to young Americans always;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that the City Council expresses its profound sorrow at the death of Miss Switzer and extends its heartfelt sympathy to Miss Switzer's sister, brother, and two nephews and to Miss Switzer's dear friend, Isabella Diamond, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this City Council meeting, and, further, that a copy of this Resolution of Sympathy be forwarded to Miss Switzer's sister, brother, nephews, and Miss Diamond.

BY AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR., MAYOR

Adopted October 26, 1971

ATTEST:

Helen Vickers Clerk