

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE  
SENATOR KAY RUTHVEN HAGAN

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2019, this community lost one of its outstanding local and national leaders with the passing of the late Senator Kay Ruthven Hagan at the age of 66;

WHEREAS, Senator Hagan was born May 26, 1953, in Shelby, North Carolina; the daughter of Josie “Joe” Perry Ruthven, former mayor of Lakeland, Florida and Jeanette Chiles Ruthven; and the niece of the late United States Senator Lawton Chiles, who had also served as the Governor of Florida;

WHEREAS, she spent the majority of her childhood in Lakeland, Florida; spent summers on her grandparents’ farm in Chesterfield, South Carolina; graduated from Lakeland Senior High School in 1971; and interned at the U.S. Capitol during the 1970s;

WHEREAS, Senator Hagan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida State University in 1975; earned a Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1978; and pursued a dual career as an attorney and banker;

WHEREAS, she served as Vice President of the Estates and Trust Division in the banking industry for ten (10) years; then pursued a political career after being a stay-at-home mother raising her family in Greensboro;

WHEREAS, she worked as county campaign manager for Governor Jim Hunt’s gubernatorial campaign;

WHEREAS, Senator Hagan was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly as a North Carolina state senator in 1998 for the 32<sup>nd</sup> district (later redistricted to the 27<sup>th</sup> district); and represented Guilford County, including Greensboro, for five terms, rising to leadership roles within the General Assembly as co-chair of the Appropriations Committee;

WHEREAS, she was elected as North Carolina’s first female Democratic United States Senator in 2008 and is the only Greensboro citizen to have served in the US Senate; she was also the first woman to defeat an incumbent woman in a U.S. Senate election, with over 2.2 million votes cast for her election, and 100,000 more votes than for President Barack Obama when he won the state that same year.

WHEREAS, she was a champion for public education and promoted the teaching of financial literacy in public school; and she spearheaded support for state funding for many local initiatives such as the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nano engineering, the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, the Greensboro Science Center, and the ACC Hall of Champions;

WHEREAS, she was a strong advocate for North Carolina; and supported federal legislation in the areas of health care, public education, small businesses, equal pay and health care for women, support for service member and veteran, and more;

WHEREAS, she garnered congressional support for a new air-traffic control tower; and led the funding efforts for the \$60 million construction project at the Piedmont Triad International (PTI) Airport; in October of 2020, the President signed into law a bill passed by Congress to name the new tower after her as the “Senator Kay Hagan Airport Traffic Control Tower.”

WHEREAS, Senator Hagan was a resident fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics in 2015 and joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, a Washington, D.C. lobbying firm in 2016;

WHEREAS, she was bitten by an infected tick in late 2016; was diagnosed with encephalitis due to the Powassan virus in December, 2016; was admitted to a hospital; and after hospitalization and therapy returned home to Greensboro; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service of Senator Kay Ruthven Hagan. Her legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions she made.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Senator Kay Ruthven Hagan as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her devoted support and contributions to this community.