



Allegheny County Council

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Proclamation honoring the life, memory and legacy of Donna M. Walker Cook.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County Council does hereby honor the life of the late **Donna M. Walker Cook**, a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, who passed away on April 22, 2020 at the age of 61; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Morgantown High School, **Donna** earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology/audiology from West Virginia University, and eventually earned her M.S. from there as well; and

WHEREAS, **Donna** was a devoted wife to her husband, Tim Cook for 36 years and together they had two sons, Tyler and Colin; and

WHEREAS, **Donna** displayed remarkable fortitude and passion towards helping others. For 35 years, **Donna** considered it a privilege to work with individuals with special needs, and their families at the Easter Seals Western PA Speech Department located in Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, as an active member of her community in Bethel Park, **Donna** was actively involved with the District, first as a PTO member and President, ultimately serving as the PTO Council's President. Her impressive leadership skills with the PTO translated to a School Director position, where she ultimately served as President for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, **Donna** was a dedicated public servant who used her role as school director to champion not only the children, but all citizens in Bethel Park; and

WHEREAS, over the 16 years on School Board, **Donna** was influential in contributing to the following accomplishments: guiding the District out of a more than \$2 million deficit; building a new state-of-the-art Bethel Park High School; renovating all Bethel Park schools to make sure the roofs and HVAC units were upgraded; approving the expenditure of over \$1 million to provide all students with one-to-one technology; making the schools safer through added security measures, including the creation of the School Police Force; and supporting an excellent educational environment that promotes hands-on STEAM activities at all levels of instruction; and

WHEREAS, **Donna's** notable leadership skills aided the High School to receive the following awards: 2013 Building Excellence Award from the Master Builders' Association of Western Pennsylvania, the 2016 D. Richard Wynn Award from the University of Pittsburgh's Tri-State Area

School Study Council, the 2016 Magna Honorable Mention Award from the National School Boards Association and 2019 recognition from the Allegheny Conference; and
WHEREAS, *Donna* was a beautiful, talented, loving and caring person that lived an exemplary life purposefully filled with many acts of kindness and charity;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Allegheny County Council Member Sam DeMarco, do hereby honor the life, memory and legacy of *Donna M. Walker Cook*, and I extend condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 15th day of May 2020.