

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LATE UNITED STATES  
SENATOR MARGARET CHASE SMITH**

**WHEREAS**, in 1940, Margaret Chase Smith won a special election to the United States House of Representatives following the death of her husband, Representative Clyde Smith. She went on to win the general election in her own right just 3 months later and was re-elected for 3 additional terms over the next 8 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1947, Representative Smith played a key role in getting the Nurse Corps Bill passed through Congress, granting women the opportunity to have permanent status in the United States military for the first time; and

**WHEREAS**, Margaret Chase Smith was sworn into the United States Senate on January 3, 1949, becoming the first woman to be elected to both houses of Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, in her Declaration of Conscience speech made on June 1, 1950, Senator Smith spoke out against the cruelty of McCarthyism and the "national feeling of fear and frustration" and called on her fellow Legislators to avoid hatred and character assassination and to honor the right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest and the right of independent thought; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1954 and 1955, Senator Smith took a world tour at her own expense and not as a representative of the United States government, visiting numerous European, African and Asian countries and interviewing over 20 world leaders. Many of the interviews were recorded and sent back to the United States to be broadcast on Edward R. Murrow's program "See It Now" on CBS. The Overseas Press Club of America later honored the "See It Now" segments with the Best Presentation on Foreign Affairs award. Senator Smith accepted the award on behalf of CBS and officially became an award-winning foreign correspondent; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Smith debated former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on "Face the Nation" in 1956, a few days before the 1956 Presidential election. They were the first female guests on this news show and debated the 1956 Israeli-Egyptian war over the Suez Canal, the Soviet invasion of Hungary and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1964, after being told that the White House was not ready for a female chief executive, Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to be placed in nomination for the presidency by a major political party, ultimately losing the nomination to Barry Goldwater; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982, Margaret Chase Smith opened the library that houses her papers for researchers of all ages. Upon her death in 1995, her Skowhegan home was turned into a museum open to the public so that we might continue to learn from the example of civility and leadership her life evinced; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life of Margaret Chase Smith, her accomplishments in Congress, her fight against injustice and her extensive contributions to the civil rights and equal rights movements.