Be it resolved that on February 20, 2009, the faculty and staff of the College of Education at the University of Maryland honor the life and professional career and acknowledge the death of Dora F. Kennedy, former adjunct faculty member of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

A resident of College Park, Dora passed away from recurrent cancer on February 1, 2009, at the age of 87 at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. She is survived by her son, Dallas C. Kennedy of Natick, Massachusetts. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 50 years, Edwin Dallas Kennedy, who passed away in 2006.

Born in Bellaire, Ohio, Dora was the child of immigrant Italian parents and showed outstanding ability in languages early. At Ohio University in Athens she majored in education and Romance Languages (Spanish, Italian, French), and minored in Latin and English, graduating summa cum laude in 1942. She later studied Russian, German, Portuguese and Japanese, and worked as a Portuguese translator during World War II.

Dora taught high school English, Spanish, and Latin in Ohio and New York, before moving to the Washington metro area in 1951. After working as an elementary teacher in College Park, in 1959 she was asked to serve as the first Supervisor of Foreign Languages for Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). She held this position for the next 31 years, supervising and coordinating programs in Spanish, French, Italian, Latin, German, Russian and Japanese. She also directed the writing of curricula and the in service of teachers.

During this time, Dora earned both a M.Ed. in Elementary Education and a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education from the University of Maryland College of Education. She published many articles in foreign language journals as well as curriculum and instructional guides for various languages. She designed and taught a number of foreign language courses including “Introduction to Italian through Opera”. She also authored the student text, *Exploring Languages* (with teacher’s manual), which was adopted by schools nationwide, and was active in numerous professional organizations.

Dora adored the city of College Park and was very involved in community affairs. For 15 years she served as vice president of the Calvert Hills Civic Association. In the 1970s and 1980s she worked to ensure that the character of the surrounding neighborhood was preserved with the introduction of the College Park metro station. She also played an instrumental role in founding the National Museum of Language in College Park, which opened in May 2008.

A person who believed in giving back, upon her retirement from PGCPS at age 70 Dora volunteered as an adjunct foreign language lecturer at the College of Education, helping to educate new teachers until the end of 2008. She greatly enjoyed teaching and helping to launch young people into the profession. Over the course of her career she spurred innovations in foreign language teaching and touched the lives of hundreds of teachers. As described by one of her Maryland colleagues, “Dora was a life saver, my personal angel.”

The College of Education is forever grateful to have benefited from the services rendered by Dr. Dora F. Kennedy. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to her family, friends and colleagues.

February 20, 2009