

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARILYN SHULER.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Marilyn Tate Shuler, a long-time human and civil rights activist and leader in Idaho, passed away on February 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the many accomplishments and contributions that Marilyn Shuler made to the people of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was born in 1939 in Sacramento, California; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn attributed her commitment to human rights in part to seeing her father, an IBM engineer, tutor African-American students in math to help them pass hiring tests, stating "persons who are frequently the victims of discrimination need a helping hand"; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn also cultivated empathy for those who face discrimination after she contracted polio as a young girl and experienced the social isolation of being different from other students; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn's family moved to Utah, where Marilyn met her future husband John and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Utah; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn and John Shuler moved to Boise after their marriage, where Marilyn went to work for St. Luke's Hospital and volunteered as a lead kindergarten teacher for the YMCA Kindergarten Project for low-income children; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was an early advocate for establishing public kindergartens in Idaho schools, and often said that the campaign's success was one of her proudest achievements; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn and John opened their home to "hard to place" teenage foster children and exchange students; and

WHEREAS, after John passed away, Marilyn established the John D. Shuler Memorial Fund within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, which supports the interests of children in foster care with opportunities they might not otherwise have, such as music lessons, summer camps and letter jackets; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn's commitment to children was demonstrated throughout her life, as she served as an advisory council member for the Casey Family Programs, a director of the YMCA, a child advocate through the Fourth District Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate program and a member of the Boise Public Schools Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Voices for Children named Marilyn as the recipient of the 2017 Children's Champion award; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn was well known for her 20-year career as director of the Idaho Commission on Human Rights, whose purpose is to fight discrimina-

1 tion in Idaho based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, and dis-
2 ability; and

3 WHEREAS, Marilyn was a founding member of the five-state Northwest
4 Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, which was formed in response to the
5 rise of the Aryan Nations in Idaho, in order to monitor the activities of
6 groups that harass individuals on the basis of race, religion, gender, sex-
7 ual orientation, national origin or ancestry; and

8 WHEREAS, Marilyn was a cofounder of the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights
9 Memorial, the only Anne Frank memorial in the nation, which displays the Uni-
10 versal Declaration of Human Rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Marilyn served as director and president of the Wassmuth Cen-
12 ter for Human Rights, a Boise-based human rights education center; and

13 WHEREAS, Marilyn also served on the Ada County Human Rights Task Force;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to her work for children and human rights, Marilyn
16 was also active in many other community organizations, such as the Osher In-
17 stitute for Lifelong Learning at BSU, the City Club of Boise, the Idaho Board
18 of Medicine as a lay member on prelitigation panels, the Boise Police Depart-
19 ment's Greenbelt Patrol, the Junior League of Boise, the Boise Redevelopment
20 Agency, the Boise Committee on Foreign Relations, the Idaho Public Televi-
21 sion Foundation and the Idaho Statesman's Editorial Board; and

22 WHEREAS, Marilyn served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Public Em-
23 ployee Retirement System of Idaho; and

24 WHEREAS, in addition to her Bachelor of Science, Marilyn earned a Mas-
25 ter of Public Administration degree from Boise State University, and she was
26 honored by the university as a Distinguished Alumna in 2006; and

27 WHEREAS, Marilyn was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters de-
28 gree from the University of Idaho and another honorary Doctor of Humane Let-
29 ters from Boise State University; and

30 WHEREAS, the citizens of Idaho have shown their appreciation for Mar-
31 ilyn's volunteer work in the form of the many awards given to Marilyn: the
32 Torch of Liberty award from the Anti-Defamation League's Pacific Northwest
33 Region, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian award from the Canyon Area
34 Human Rights Task Force, the Light of Philanthropy award from St. Luke's
35 Hospital, the Distinguished Community Service award from the Boise Area
36 Chamber of Commerce, and the Heritage Hall of Fame designation from the Trea-
37 sure Valley branch of the NAACP; and

38 WHEREAS, former YMCA Director Jim Everett described Marilyn as "a saint
39 and, I would add, a very busy saint"; and

40 WHEREAS, Boise State University has established in its School of Public
41 Service the Marilyn Shuler Human Rights Initiative, which will offer an aca-
42 demic certificate program in human rights education and advocacy. The ini-
43 tiative will work to provide opportunities and resources for students, fac-
44 ulty, staff and community members to learn about human rights issues and ad-
45 vocacy outside of the normal classroom through events, including teach-ins,
46 panel discussions, speakers and event sponsorship; and

47 WHEREAS, on January 15, 2018, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter awarded the
48 Idaho Medal of Achievement posthumously to Marilyn Shuler, deliberately
49 making the announcement on Martin Luther King, Jr.-Idaho Human Rights Day,

1 and stating "Marilyn was every bit a stalwart champion for human rights and a
2 guiding light in our state for decency and compassion."

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
4 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
5 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature recognizes and honors
6 the many accomplishments and contributions made by Marilyn Tate Shuler to
7 the people of Idaho.