



City of Cambridge

R-85.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 27, 2004

VICE MAYOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Margaret "Peggy" Schirmer; and

WHEREAS: Margaret Fellows Schirmer, better known as Peggy, spent the second half of her 89 years working to make a safer world for children; and

WHEREAS: Born and educated in England, Peggy came to the United States as a young woman interested in economics and justice, particularly working conditions for women. After her marriage to Boone Schirmer, while raising her children, she worked as a seamstress and was a representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union negotiating wages and prices for piecework. Throughout their childhood her children remember participating in protests with their mother against segregation for hot school lunches and against the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS: In her fifties, Peggy went to Tufts University for a degree in early childhood education. She taught preschool and became director at the Radcliffe Child Care Center and then at Cambridge Headstart. During 1970 she traveled to Mexico to learn Spanish, and to Cuba to work with the Cuban Ministry of education. In 1985 she went to China, the Netherlands and Denmark to learn about childcare in other cultures. Her perspective was global, and her commitment was to all children everywhere; and

WHEREAS: In 1979, as the Nuclear Freeze movement was growing in the United States, Peggy organized a workshop at the annual NAEYC National Conference entitled "Nuclear Weapons, Our Legacy to our Children?" Sixteen teachers found each other at this workshop and decided to form an organization, which became Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment (CEASE). They founded a network committed to generating a strong voice among early childhood educators to protest the continued development of nuclear weapons which threaten our world and the children we strive to protect. CEASE Newsletter began in 1980 and was edited and mailed from Peggy's kitchen table for the next 20 years. It has focused on the broad view of "safety" which Peggy and others articulated. Safety for children goes beyond the classroom and the playground to include: safety from nuclear weapons and nuclear and other pollution, safety from war and weapons in our neighborhoods, and safety from economic and social injustice; and

RESOLUTION #85

Resolution on the death of
Margaret Schirmer.

**Vice Mayor Decker and entire
membership**

In City Council September 27, 2004

ORDER ADOPTED