

# SENATE RESOLUTION 63

(By Senators Chapman, Karnes, and Hunt)

[Introduced March 1, 2024]

Memorializing the life of Sylvia Shafer, animal welfare advocate and beloved wife.

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer spent decades dedicated to animal welfare, beginning in 1982 with her membership in Kanawha Action for Animals; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer continued with her work as a board member and later, executive director for the Kanawha/Charleston Humane Association, the largest animal shelter in our state, where she prioritized the prosecution of animal cruelty; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer was passionate about improving the laws in West Virginia to protect animals; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer was active in the Legislature since 1989, working tirelessly with legislators and private citizens to make changes to our laws to improve animal welfare in our state; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer was the primary lobbyist for West Virginia Voters for Animal Welfare; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer was a member of the Department of Agriculture Advisory Committee for the WVSNP program since 2017; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer invested enormous amounts of time and effort into learning the law and the legislative process, and became an expert in both to further the animal welfare cause;

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer, together with Betty Burkett, formed the Federation of Humane Organizations, West Virginia in 1994; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer worked tirelessly for our state, and together with Betty Burkett, blazed a trail for those in animal welfare and a framework upon which others continue to build; and

Whereas, Sylvia Shafer left this world on January 24, 2024, and is deeply missed; and

Whereas, It is fitting that the Senate honor the life and legacy of Sylvia Shafer for her many years of dedicated public service; therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate:*

That the Senate hereby memorializes the life of Sylvia Shafer, animal welfare advocate, and beloved wife; and, be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Senate extends its most sincere condolences to the family of Sylvia Shafer on her passing; and, be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the family of Sylvia Shafer.