

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING ALICE STOKES PAUL
RESOLUTION OF JUNE 13, 2006

WHEREAS, In the U.S. House of Representatives on January 25, 2005, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Stokes Paul in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing the equal rights for women; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul was born on January 11, 1885, in Moorestown, New Jersey, and died on July 9, 1977; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul dedicated her life to securing suffrage and equal rights for all women and, as founder of the national Women's Party, she was instrumental in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul and the National Women's Party were the first group ever to picket the White House; and

WHEREAS, while President Woodrow Wilson trumpeted America's values of democracy abroad during World War I, Alice Stokes Paul was dedicated to reminding the President that not all Americans enjoyed democracy at home; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul used nonviolent civil disobedience to bring national attention to the women's suffrage movement, such as the 3-week hunger strike she undertook when she was sentenced to jail in October, 1917, for her demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul's courage inspired thousands of women to join the women's suffrage movement; and

WHEREAS, instead of patiently waiting for States to grant women suffrage, Alice Stokes Paul mobilized an entire generation of women to pressure the United States Congress and the President to give all women in America the right to Vote; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul did not stop her fight after the 19th Amendment was ratified; she drafted the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1923 and fought tirelessly for its passage until her death 54 years later; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul lobbied Congress to include gender in civil rights bills and was successful in including sex discrimination in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul sought equal rights for women all over the world, not just Americans and, as a means of pursuing this goal, founded the World Party for Equal Rights for Women in the 1930's; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul was instrumental in the placement of a passage on gender equality in the preamble of the United Nations Charter; and

WHEREAS, few people have played a greater role in shaping the history of the United States than Alice Stokes Paul; and

WHEREAS, Alice Stokes Paul is an example to all Americans of what one person can do to make a difference for millions of people; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights is comprised of members who share a common interest in protecting the basic civil and human rights of persons in New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights encourages the inclusion of the important history of Alice Stokes Paul be included in the curriculum for New Jersey's Public School students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all officials and leaders in this State to support efforts to educate the community-at-large about the critical contributions of Alice Stokes Paul to our State, the Nation, and the World; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the Governor and State Legislature to honor the contributions of Alice Stokes Paul by issuing proclamations designating one day each year as Alice Stokes Paul Day.