

Whereas, Iris Dean Meda was a woman who devoted her life to service towards all and particularly the least fortunate and;

Whereas, Ms. Meda spent her life overcoming obstacles, including racism and poverty, and still achieved her dream of earning a nursing degree at City College of New York and;

Whereas, she devoted years to providing humane, compassionate care to prisoners at Rikers Island in New York and treated them with such kindness that at the end of her last day at work at the facility inmates expressed their love and appreciation by “clapping her out” as she departed and;

Whereas, Iris Meda sought ways to help those who struggle when she moved to North Central Texas and provided nursing care to those imprisoned at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center in Dallas and;

Whereas, after she had retired from the North Texas Job Corps in January 2020, she set aside personal plans and applied for a job to teach nursing classes for Collin College because, as family members said, she could not remain idle during a crisis and “wanted to encourage younger nurses to continue their education” and “reach their full potential in a way she almost didn’t” and;

Whereas, Iris Meda brought the same careful attention, decency, and care to her Collin College students that she brought to her patients and;

Whereas, even as she lay in her hospital bed dying from Covid-19, she continued to ask about the well-being of her students and requested her daughter to send encouragement to the nurses providing her care and;

Whereas the life of Iris Dean Meda, known as “Deanie” by her friends and family, was defined by decency and courage, be it therefore resolved that:

The Faculty Council of Collin College provide a copy of this resolution to the family of Iris Meda to express not only the sorrow of the entire faculty about her passing but also our deep love, respect, and admiration for her, her limitless devotion to the care of others, her respect for education, her commitment to her patients and her students, and her determination to make the world a gentler, more decent place, and be it further resolved that:

Collin College President H. Neil Matkin and the Collin College Board of Trustees, in tribute to Ms. Meda’s work and her contributions not only to this institution but to every community honored to have had her in their presence, create a Iris Dean Meda Scholarship to be given each year to nursing students in financial need, and be it further resolved that:

A portrait of Iris Dean Meda be placed at a position of prominence on the first floor of the Collin Higher Education Center near the board meeting room along with a plaque honoring her life, and that a similar portrait and plaque honoring her also be placed in a prominent location at the Cary A. Israel Health Sciences Center, and be it further resolved that:

On the next All-College Day when it is deemed safe to gather in person, the administration give a special tribute to Iris Dean Meda and that the gratitude of the entire college family be expressed to her family.