Resolution celebrating Sister Mary Edith Hurley on the occasion of her 100th birthday, and declaring November 15, 2020, as Sister Mary Edith Hurley Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Aileen Hurley was born on November 15, 1920, in San Francisco’s Mission District to Irish immigrant parents; and

WHEREAS, Aileen studied at St. Peter’s Catholic School from first grade through twelfth grade, and in those years, was known to perform with siblings, Joseph and Margaret, at the world famous Healy School of Irish Dance; and

WHEREAS, After being taught for 12 years by the Sisters of Mercy who devote themselves to taking care of the poor, the sick and the uneducated, Aileen joined them and committed to spend her life serving as Sister Mary Edith Hurley; and

WHEREAS, In her 81 years as a Sister of Mercy, Sr. Mary Edith’s passion was teaching elementary school children throughout California, but she was always happy to return to San Francisco where she taught at St. Peter’s Catholic School, St. Gabriel Catholic School, St. Stephen Catholic School, and Holy Name School for a combined 28 years; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith’s devotion by her students is such that when her family wanted to schedule her birthdays, they had to work around a group of senior citizens that faithfully came to gather with their “first grade teacher”; and

WHEREAS, When in 1960’s religious life went through profound alterations, Sr. Mary Edith was always open to change and trying new things. According to her family, she “embraced the world”; and
WHEREAS, In the days when there would be 50 students to one teacher in a class, Sr. Mary Edith was known for bravely leading field trips; her famous elevated “teaching chair” was so cherished by other educators that it has been passed to three different teachers, each of whom has taken inspiration from Sr. Mary Edith’s enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Sr. Mary Edith travelled for some years to the Sisters of Mercy communities in Australia, and discovered new inspiration for decades more commitment and devotion; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith returned to San Francisco from that sojourn Down Under, at the age of 70 wrote a grant for Holy Name School’s first Computer Lab, and continued to staff the Computer program until she was 80; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith has endured the COVID-19 Shelter order with grace, she also has the skills to continue to email and FaceTime with her community; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith’s pride in her Irish heritage is reflected in her chaplaincy for both the Hibernians, and the Rebel Cork Ladies; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Edith has experienced disappointment that pandemic isolation requires the suspension of a live party for her 100 birthday; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in recognition of her 100th birthday and lifelong devotion to educating children and to the Catholic faith and Irish community, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco does hereby proclaim November 15, 2020, to be Sister Mary Edith Hurley Day.
Resolution celebrating Sister Mary Edith Hurley on the occasion of her 100th birthday, and declaring November 15, 2020, as Sister Mary Edith Hurley Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

November 17, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 11/17/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

_______________________________             __________________________
Angela Calvillo            Date
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

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Angela Calvillo            Date
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

11/27/2020
Date Approved