

Proclamation



FULTON
COUNTY

WHEREAS, Mary D'Souza Sequeira is truly a trailblazer in women's sports, leaving an enduring legacy across multiple disciplines; she defied odds during a time when sports were a luxury for men, and went on to become the first female Olympian to win medals for the Indian subcontinent; and



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WHEREAS, Mary's journey to the Olympics was far from easy, and as a teenager, she broke rules and all things considered taboo by jumping over a school wall to run around the unprepared grounds, barefooted; if caught, she would've been disgraced in public and her family, irreversibly shamed; and



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WHEREAS, Mary's competed with boys and her speed was noticed, which led to her playing field hockey; she quickly gained national prominence and was selected to represent India in multiple sports; and



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WHEREAS, India did not have funds for a women's squad in the Asia Games, so her neighbors and city officials started a drive to support her entry into the games, which led to the Indian Government's implementing a women's contingent into the Asia games squad; and



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WHEREAS, Mary won a Silver Medal (4X100M Relay) and Bronze Medal(200M) in Track and Field, and earned a spot in the Helsinki Olympics squad of 1952 where she represented India in multiple sports; in the 1954 Manila Asian Games, she set records in 100M and 200M events, and represented India in field hockey at the 1956 World Cup (Australia); and



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WHEREAS, Mary garnered several apex honors for Women's Hockey in 2013, and the Sportstar Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025; she went into mentoring and promoting women athletes for the next 20 years, and many went on to play at women's athletic forums and high profile sporting events;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Mary D'Souza Sequeira for her many contributions to women's sports in India, and does hereby proclaim Sunday, March 9, 2025, as "**MARY D'SOUZA SEQUEIRA APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y