

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH: COMMONWEALTH HEROINES OF 2021

I WANT TO THANK REPRESENTATIVE JACOB OLIVEIRA FOR RECOMMENDING ME FOR THIS HONOR, AND I WANT TO THANK THE MASSACHUETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN FOR SELECTING ME AS A COMMONWEALTH HEROINE OF 2021. MY GRATITUDE ALSO EXTENDS TO MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE IN SOME WAY HELPED SHAPE MY GOALS AND MY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ESPECIALLY TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SHARED IN MY STRUGGLES IN MY ROAD TO MY MAIN GOAL OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THAT HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO ME.

OFTEN IT IS THE CLOSEST PEOPLE TO YOU THAT ARE THE MOST VISIBLE IN YOUR LIFE, BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT MANY PEOPLE SITTING IN THE SIDELINES SOMETIMES WITH THE SMALLEST OF CONTRIBUTIONS CAN HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENS. I AM FULL OF GRATITUDE FOR THE LESSONS THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME AND TRULY HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS HONOR ON BEHALF OF ALL THOSE THAT IN SOME WAY HELPED ME IN ACHIEVING ALL THE MINI-SUCCESSSES AS I MADE MY WAY TO THIS POINT IN LIFE.

I AM TRULY HUMBLLED TO BE A PART OF THE HEROINE CLASS OF 2021 AMONG SUCH AMAZING AND SELFLESS WOMEN WHO MAKE PART OF THIS CLASS. CHOOSING TO GIVE BACK TO THOSE THAT HAVE HELPED YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS IS NOT ONLY REWARDING IN ITSELF; IT IS PART OF FULLFILLING THE LEGACY THAT YOU MAY HAVE LAID OUT FOR YOURSELF. IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR TO HAVE IN ANY SMALL WAY INFLUENCED IN A POSITIVE WAY THE COMMUNITY THAT I CHOSE TO LIVE AND WORK IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. WITHOUT A DOUBT, I HAVE NOT YET GIVEN BACK AS MUCH AS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM ALL THOSE THAT I HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO INTERACT WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS. MY COMMUNITY HAS BEEN MY LARGEST INSPIRATION FOR VOLUNTERISM AND PHILANTHROPY THAT ARE MAJOR CATALYSTS FOR ACHIEVING ANY TYPE OF SUCCESS.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS GREAT HONOR AND I AM TRULY HUMBLLED BY THE RECOMMENDATION AND THE SELECTION TO BE PART OF THE HEROINES CLASS OF 2021.

MARIA F. GOMES, C.P.A.