



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- STATEMENT -

SECRETARY MERRILL MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER SECRETARY OF THE STATE JULIA TASHJIAN

Hartford – Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today issued the following statement regarding the passing of former Secretary of the State Julia Tashjian, who died suddenly from a heart attack yesterday, May 9, 2013. Tashjian served two terms as Connecticut’s 69th Secretary of the State from 1983-1991.

“Today we mourn the loss of Julia Tashjian, a self-made woman of the modern political era in the mold of Ella Grasso and other strong leaders of the state of Connecticut. Julia Tashjian was a fierce defender of Democracy, wanting every voter to have a voice. She took her role very seriously, even serving as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. As the daughter of immigrant parents who were Armenian refugees, Julia Tashjian was always grateful for the gifts of education, economic prosperity, and freedom from oppression given to her by our great state and country. Julia was a trailblazer for women interested in elective office, but always valued her Armenian traditions and never forgot her humble roots. A graduate of the Hartford public school system, Julia truly viewed public service as a way to give back to her community. Those who knew Julia well also know that she lived life to the fullest. Today in the Secretary of the State’s office several employees who remember working with Julia Tashjian in the 1980s are recalling a woman of kindness and boundless energy, who always treated people with respect. We will miss her spirit, her dedication, and her smile.”



JULIA H. ZAKARIAN TASHJIAN
SECRETARY OF THE STATE