

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-10

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 7, 2017

To recognize and honor the life and contributions of Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray.

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on September 2, 1933 to Handy and Ella Whitworth, and the family worshipped at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in their hometown;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray held her parents' emphasis on education as a lifelong, personal calling;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray, after completing high school, furthered her education and received an undergraduate degree in Biology at North Carolina College (North Carolina Central University), a master's degree in Science Education from Fisk University in 1964 and an earned a Doctorate in Education from The Catholic University of America in 1982, where her dissertation was "The Effects of Affective and Confluent Drug Education on Risk-Taking Attitudes of Inner City Eighth Grade Students;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and participated in many of its civic and charitable activities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray, after graduating from college, taught at the Robert Smalls School in Beaufort, South Carolina;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray relocated to Washington, D.C. and continued teaching, including working as a classroom teacher and education support professional at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts/Western High School for more than 30 years, and holding other critical roles such as biology teacher and Science Department Chairman, procurement officer, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, and Tutorial Program Coordinator;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray attended the New School of Afro-American Thought in the mid-1960s, an experience that catalyzed her desire to teach children their cultural heritage;

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray established the East of the River Community Arts Program in 1981 that provided summer cultural arts programs in Ward 7, including public housing communities, and featured many local artists as interns and teachers over the years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray, motivated by her firm belief in “Prevention through the Arts,” created the East of the River Boys and Girls Steelband in 1993, a unique year-round youth arts training and performance program that provides instruction in steel pan music during after-school, Saturday sessions and a summer camp, and as a result, empowered more than 320 youths to learn steel pan music, gain cultural education and life skills, record 2 albums, take advantage of opportunities to travel regionally and internationally with the band, including visits to Trinidad and Tobago, the Gullah Festival in South Carolina, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center and the 1996 Olympic Games, and win several accolades, including the First Place Mayor’s Arts Award for Emerging Artists, the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities Certificate of Excellence, and second place at the Apollo Theater’s Amateur Night;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray was also an active member of several community organizations, including the Far East Kiwanis Club, Fairfax Village Community Association, Ward 7 Education Council, the Ward 7 Democrats, receiving the Ward 7 Democrat of the Year award, the Washington Teachers Union, and Union Temple Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray departed into rest on January 3, 2017, leaving to cherish her memory a host of family members, relatives, and friends.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Dr. Gladys Whitworth Bray for her tireless work, personal sacrifices and life-long contributions as a concerned public servant to the education and well-being of the youth in Ward 7 and the District of Columbia and to the betterment of the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.