

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-68

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 4, 2017

To recognize and honor Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates on the occasion of a legacy luncheon celebrating her life and to declare April 29, 2017, as “Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates Day” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates has lived in the District of Columbia for over 48 years and currently resides at 328 G Street, S.W.;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates is the daughter of the late Rev. Edward H. Bouey and Dr. Elizabeth Cloes Bouey of Richmond, Virginia, who both served as missionaries in West Africa for many years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates followed in the footsteps of her parents by spending much of her life in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, working with people and programs to provide educational and technical assistance;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates began preparation for her life’s work at Virginia Union University, graduating in 1943 at the age of 17 years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates received her first graduate degree from Columbia University in New York City and her doctoral degree from George Washington University;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates began her professional career as a teacher in the Richmond Public Schools;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates joined the staff of the International Relations Division of the National Education Association as Director of its Overseas Educational Assistance Program in 1964, living and working in developing countries throughout the world;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates later moved to Switzerland to work for the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession as Program Director for Africa;

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates lived through the outbreak of war in the Congo, a plane hijacking across the Red Sea to Yemen, coup d'états in Liberia and the Cameroons, political demonstrations in Swaziland, Lesotho, and South Africa, and relief efforts in drought-stricken Ethiopia;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates from 1977 to her retirement in 1986 worked in South Africa, assisting the Black and Colored Teachers Association in its struggle against apartheid;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates passion for South Africa has resulted in organized trips of American groups to study, experience, and enjoy the country she has come to love so dearly;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates' numerous trips with more than a thousand travelers has resulted in the formation of the Dr. Bettye Bouey-Yates Educational Foundation, founded primarily to give much-needed assistance to the 1,200 children at the Christianberg Public Primary School, located outside the city of Durban;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates belongs to Christ United Methodist Church in the District of Columbia, whose members, many of whom are former South African travelers, provide various forms of assistance to an orphanage, a church, and HIV-AIDS program in South Africa's black township of Soweto;

WHEREAS, Dr. Bouey-Yates is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and continues to be involved in many activities that relate to Africa, African-American history, and the culture and arts; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia and the Council of the District of Columbia are privileged and honored to recognize Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates on this auspicious occasion, a legacy luncheon on April 29, 2017 celebrating her life.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates Day Recognition Resolution of 2017".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates for her commitment to the District of Columbia, and declares April 29, 2017, as "Dr. Elizabeth (Bettye) Bouey-Yates Day" in the District of Columbia.

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