

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-185

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To recognize the outstanding public achievements of Tom Lewis on the occasion of his retirement from The Fishing School's Board of Directors.

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis was born in 1939 in Chadbourn, North Carolina and raised in poverty in Elizabethtown, North Carolina as one of 16 children in his household;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis dropped out of high school in 10th grade and began working as a migrant farmhand on the Eastern Seaboard;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis was drafted in 1961 to serve in the U.S. Army, where he was able to earn his General Education Diploma;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis, upon his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1963, worked odd jobs in New York City while providing support to his family back home;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis joined the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD") in 1965 and served as a police officer for more than 20 years, witnessing the riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and seeing the District repeatedly succumb to crime and violence;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis went from classroom to classroom teaching students how to become upstanding citizens as part of MPD's Officer Friendly program, seeing firsthand the needs of the city's youth whose mothers were addicts and fathers were absent or incarcerated;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis earned his bachelor's degree in administration of justice from American University in 1975 after 6 years of working days, attending school at night, and raising 3 children with his wife;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis became a licensed social worker and an ordained Baptist minister in 1984;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis, in 1990, a few years after his retirement from the MPD, renovated a former crack house on what was once deemed “the worst street in America” and transformed it into The Fishing School;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis was inspired by the adage that states “If you give a man a fish, you will feed him for a day; teach him how to fish, and he will feed himself for a lifetime,” to name the organization The Fishing School;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis recognized that education can unlock the door to knowledge and opportunity and break the cycle of poverty, and started the work of The Fishing School by providing after-school tutoring and life skills training for 5 students from the Wylie Street, Northeast community;

WHEREAS, The Fishing School has served over 5,000 students and their families since its humble beginnings in 1990, and today, the award-winning, out-of-time school program has expanded its services, continuing both Mr. Lewis’ legacy and its mission to offer every child a brighter future;

WHEREAS, Tom Lewis remained actively involved in The Fishing School as a member of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, September 22, 2017 marks the date of Mr. Lewis’ retirement from The Fishing School’s Board of Directors.

**RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this resolution may be cited as the “Tom Lewis Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia congratulates and thanks Tom Lewis for his 50-year career as a public servant, the founding of The Fishing School, and his service on The Fishing School’s Board of Directors.

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