

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22- 243

IN THE COUNCIL OF TH DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2018

To recognize Roberta Wright McCain, a District resident for 45 years, on the 106th celebration of her birthday, to commend her for her services to the United States and for being the loving wife, mother, and daughter-in-law of men in the United States Naval Service, and to declare February 7, 2018, as “Roberta Wright McCain’s 106th Birthday Celebration Day” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain was born on April 7, 1912, in Muskogee, Oklahoma – making her a genuine “Okie From Muskogee”;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain married Navy Ensign John Sidney McCain, Jr., a World War II submarine commander who later rose to Four-Star Admiral, and served from 1968 to 1972 as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command, his last position;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain served with her husband all over the globe, and 5 different times was stationed in Washington, D.C.;

WHREAS, upon his retirement in 1973, they chose the District of Columbia as their retirement residence for the duration, and she remained a Kalorama resident for 45 years;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain has long-established connections to Washington, D.C. and the metropolitan area, including memberships in the Cosmos Club and Chevy Chase Club of which her uncle, Army Lt. Gen. Henry Pinckney McCain, who resided in the District of Columbia on Columbia Road, was the last Master of Hounds in 1920, when regular hunts still sallied forth in then very rural Chevy Chase;

WHEREAS, her husband, Adm. John S. McCain, Jr., was a career-long member of the Army and Navy Club in downtown Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, her father-in-law, Adm. John S. McCain Sr., also a Four-Star Admiral, was a member of both the Army and Navy Club and the Cosmos Club, and was stationed in Washington, D.C. on 4 different duty assignments;

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WHEREAS, Roberta McCain's son, John Sidney McCain III, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a prisoner-of-war in Hanoi for 5 1/2 years, entered politics and was elected U.S. Congressman from Arizona, serving from 1981 to 1985, and then U.S. Senator, serving from 1985 to the present and residing in Washington D.C. when Congress is in session;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain is known as a generous lady and an outstanding and colorful personality, of great warmth and enthusiasm;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain, after Adm. McCain's passing in 1981, traveled to Europe to recover from her grief, then continued traveling and so became a genuine expert in all manner of styles of art, and aggregated a large collection of volumes of fine art, enough to fill half of her library;

WHEREAS, Roberta McCain, under the tutelage of a cousin renowned in the craft, became an expert in needle-pointing and once made a 9-foot-by-12-foot rug, and also made many pillow covers, chair seats, and various throw-covers, all in vivid and colorful designs; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, when her husband was promoted to Rear Admiral to be Naval Congressional Liaison, while he was still serving at sea commanding a Heavy Cruiser, Roberta McCain purchased a decayed rooming house at 1st and C Streets, S.E., and completely refurbished it, doing much of the renovation herself, and that elegant residence is now The Capitol Hill Club.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Roberta Wright McCain 106th Birthday Celebration Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Roberta Wright McCain for her nearly 11 decades of a vibrant, accomplished life and declares February 7, 2018, as "Roberta Wright McCain's 106th Birthday Celebration 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.