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Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION
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9 COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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13 To celebrate the life and notable musical accomplishments of Dr. Edwin Hawkins, including the
14 great success of his rendition of the song "Oh Happy Day", and to declare June 23, 2018,
15 as "Dr. Edwin Hawkins Day" in the District of Columbia.

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Edwin Hawkins was born in Oakland, California on August 19, 1943 to
17 Daniel and Mamie Hawkins;

18 WHEREAS, beginning at the age of 7, Dr. Edwin Hawkins was the accompanying
19 keyboardist for his family's gospel group;

20 WHEREAS, in 1967, Dr. Edwin Hawkins, along with Betty Watson, founded the Northern
21 California State Youth Choir, which had nearly 50 members;

22 WHEREAS, in 1968, the Northern California State Youth Choir recorded its first album,
23 *Let Us Go Into the House of the Lord*;

24 WHEREAS, on this album, one outstanding song, entitled "Oh Happy Day," garnered
25 national attention, quickly climbing up the Gospel charts and eventually selling over 7 million
26 copies;

27 WHEREAS, "Oh Happy Day" reached number 4 on the Billboard pop chart and number 2
28 on the Billboard R&B chart;

29 WHEREAS, "Oh Happy Day" was included on the "Songs of the Century" list;

30 WHEREAS, after Dr. Edwin Hawkins popularized "Oh Happy Day," music giants such as
31 Glenn Campbell, Johnny Mathis, Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, Mavis Staples, and Susan Boyle
32 recorded their own versions of the song;

33 WHEREAS, "Oh Happy Day" won the Grammy Award for Best Soul Gospel Performance
34 in 1970;

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35 WHEREAS, Dr. Edwin Hawkins won three additional Grammy Awards for his gospel
36 music in 1971, 1977, and 1993, respectively;

37 WHEREAS, Dr. Edwin Hawkins spent much of his life making dozens of records and
38 touring internationally, frequently performing with his siblings;

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Edwin Hawkins became one of the most esteemed Gospel artists of his
40 generation, working as a songwriter, producer; and promoter of young talents;

41 WHEREAS, for nearly 20 years, Dr. Edwin Hawkins organized the annual “Edwin
42 Hawkins Music & Arts Seminar,” which attracted thousands of talented young artists, whom were
43 taught in seminars and often discovered by talent scouts;

44 WHEREAS, in 2007, Dr. Edwin Hawkins was voted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame;

45 WHEREAS, in September of 2016, Dr. Edwin Hawkins was honored at the Kennedy
46 Center by the Gospel Music Heritage Month Tribute;

47 WHEREAS, Dr. Edwin Hawkins is credited as one of the founders of modern Gospel
48 music; and

49 WHEREAS, after 74 years of life and musical accomplishments, Dr. Edwin Hawkins
50 passed away on January 15, 2018.

51 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
52 resolution may be cited as the “Dr. Edwin Hawkins Day Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of
53 2018”.

54 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia celebrates the life of Dr. Edwin Hawkins,
55 recognizes his lifelong musical accomplishments, and declares June 23, 2018 as “Dr. Edwin
56 Hawkins Day” in the District of Columbia.

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