

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-7

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 5, 2019

To honor and recognize Dorothy Butler Gilliam for her incredible career as both a journalist and civil rights activist, and for her efforts to promote more inclusivity in the field of journalism.

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam was born in December 1936 and spent her childhood in Memphis, Tennessee before her family moved to Louisville, Kentucky;

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, is a longtime resident of the District of Columbia and currently resides in Ward 4, and has been an active and devoted member of Metropolitan AME Church since 1997;

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam began attending Ursuline University in Louisville and transferred to Lincoln University to study journalism;

WHEREAS, while attending Ursuline University, Dorothy Butler Gilliam began working as a typist for the *Louisville Defender*, but at 17 years of age, she was named the society editor;

WHEREAS, in 1957, Dorothy Butler Gilliam was hired by *JET*, where she worked until 1959;

WHEREAS, in 1959, Dorothy Butler Gilliam continued her education at Tuskegee Institute, and in 1960, she was accepted at Columbia University in the graduate school of journalism;

WHEREAS, in 1961, Dorothy Butler Gilliam began work for *The Washington Post*, becoming the first black woman reporter for the newspaper;

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam worked for *The Washington Post* for nearly 40 years as an editor and columnist covering issues such as politics, education, and race;

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WHEREAS, in 1976, Dorothy Butler Gilliam authored the biography *Paul Robeson, All American*;

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam served as the president of the National Association of Black Journalists from 1993 to 1995;

WHEREAS, in 1997, Dorothy Butler Gilliam became director of the Young Journalists Development Project, which helps local high schools develop journalism programs;

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam is a former fellow of the Freedom Forum at the Media Studies Center at Columbia University and the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University;

WHEREAS, in 2003, Dorothy Butler Gilliam joined the School of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University as the Shapiro Fellow, and in 2004, as a Shapiro Fellow, she founded Prime Movers Media, the nation's first journalism mentorship program to focus on urban schools;

WHEREAS, among Dorothy Butler Gilliam's many accolades are her induction into the Society of Professional Journalists' Hall of Fame; the University of Missouri Honor Medal in Journalism (1998); and the Ann O'Hare McCormick Award from the New York Newspaper Women's Club;

WHEREAS, in 2010, The Washington Press Club awarded Dorothy Butler Gilliam its Lifetime Achievement Award;

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2019, Dorothy Butler Gilliam's memoir, *Trailblazer: A Pioneering Journalist's Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America*, was published; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Butler Gilliam is a pioneering journalist with an illustrious career as a columnist and editor and has remained committed to spurring diversity in the media.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Dorothy Butler Gilliam Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Dorothy Butler Gilliam for her commitment to the field of journalism and civil rights and recognizes her for her many philanthropic endeavors.

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