

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-141

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Robert Lee Davis and to recognize the impact that he has made through both his professional and community work and engagement in both Ward 4 and the District of Columbia as a whole.

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis was born on July 27, 1919, in Franklin, Virginia, formerly of Southampton County, where he grew up during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and dealt with legalized segregation and racial discrimination;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis earned a bachelor's degree around 1942 from Virginia State University, where he joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity on what would be the same day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis was an avid boxer and while attending Virginia State University he won an amateur welterweight championship, earning him the nickname "Champ" Davis from his college peers;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed at Cherbourg-Octerville, France and would become a decorated veteran by surviving the fierce battles on D-Day during the invasion of Normandy where he was a part of Allied Forces landing at Omaha Beach;

WHEREAS, following his service in World War II Robert Lee Davis attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin where he received his master's in 1949 and later studied landscape architecture and city planning at Cornell University around 1955 and horticulture at Iowa State University of Science and Technology around 1956;

WHEREAS, during his time at the University of Wisconsin, Robert Lee Davis met Myrtle Mae Bowers, who served in the Red Cross during World War II, and the two were married in 1949;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis became a professor of landscape art at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas where he helped shape and develop young architects and was

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engaged by some clients on independent commissions, most notably a commission at Jarvis Christian College;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an assistant director of planning and worked as a city planner with the D.C. Public Housing Authority under the future first mayor of the city, Walter Washington;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis became a resident of the District of Columbia and raised his two girls—Patsy Faith and Brenda Gay, who were born in the District, and who attended and graduated from Jesse LaSalle Elementary School and Margaret M. Amidon Elementary School respectively before attending and graduating from National Cathedral School for Girls;

WHEREAS, he became an officer of the Foreign Service in the U.S. Department of State, where he traveled to every continent in the world, except Australia, and retired after 25 years of service;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis continues to be an active member of the District of Columbia community where he has been a member of Brightwood Park United Methodist Church for over 60 years, a member of the Lamond-Riggs Association for more than 60 years, and has taken place in every election for nearly 6 decades;

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis has shown great commitment and dedication to his community through nurturing beautiful gardens enjoyed by his neighbors, aiding the sick, widowed and disabled, clearing snow in the winters, mowing the lawns of neighbors who were unable in the spring and summer, and raking leaves during the fall; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Davis is a deeply admired gentleman of the highest moral character who served as a stalwart example of dignity, self-respect, professional success and responsibility, is a devoted and loving father, a faithful and supportive spouse and a vital member of our Ward 4 and District of Columbia community.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Robert Lee Davis 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

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Sec. 2. The Council honors Robert Lee Davis for his service to this country, his commitment to the District of Columbia and Ward 4 through his continued community involvement and for a century's worth of life. commitment to our Ward 4 and District of Columbia communities and for the positive impact she has had and continues to have.

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