

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-163

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To recognize the contributions of A. Janelle Goetcheus, M.D. to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2019, A. Janelle Goetcheus, M.D. announced her impending departure from the role of Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs at Unity Health Care, a position she had held for 34 years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Goetcheus moved to the District of Columbia in 1976 and shortly thereafter, in 1979, founded Columbia Road Health Services, a medical clinic dedicated to serving people in D.C. who were poor or refugees;

WHEREAS, in 1985, Dr. Goetcheus founded Christ House, a temporary residential care facility for homeless men and women, the first of its kind in the nation, and in 1992, she founded Kairos House, a permanent housing program for former Christ House patients;

WHEREAS, also in 1985, Dr. Goetcheus co-founded the Health Care for the Homeless Project to provide primary health care services to homeless individuals and families that resided in local emergency shelters or on the streets of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Dr. Goetcheus continued to serve in a leadership role at the Health Care for the Homeless Project including after its transformation into Unity Health Care in 1997 and its expansion to now include over 20 traditional and non-traditional health care sites in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Dr. Goetcheus helped to create the D.C. Health Care Alliance, the locally-funded medical insurance program for residents who are low-income and not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare;

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WHEREAS, Dr. Goetcheus has received numerous accolades including being named Doctor of the Year in 1991 by the American Academy of Family Physicians, inducted into the District of Columbia Hall of Fame in 1989, named Washingtonian of the Year in 1995 by Washingtonian Magazine, awarded the Pride in Profession Award in 2002 by the American Medical Association, and awarded the Philip W. Brickner National Leadership Award in 2017 by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, which honored her for significantly strengthening services to address the health of people without homes, characterized by her commitment to social justice, compassion, humility, collaboration, innovation, intellect and persistence.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “A. Janelle Goetcheus, M.D. Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes A. Janelle Goetcheus, M.D. for contributing 34 years of service to the people of the District of Columbia as Chief Medical Officer of Unity Health Care and the Health Care for the Homeless Project.

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