

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-187

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2019

To recognize and congratulate the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing class of 1969 on their 50th class reunion.

WHEREAS, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing, also known as WRAIN, was established on May 1, 1964, as a class II activity under the jurisdiction of the Surgeon General in cooperation with the University of Maryland School of Nursing, with the academic aspects of the program under the jurisdiction of the university;

WHEREAS, upon completion of the program, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing was conferred by the University of Maryland and following state licensure, participants were commissioned as second and first lieutenants in the United States Army Reserve and were obligated to serve on active duty for 3 years;

WHEREAS, Major Ilandene H. Filer was appointed as the first Administrative Director of WRAIN and 4 other ANC officers followed in serving as Administrative Director, including Lieutenant Colonels Margaret Ewen, Colonel Drusilla Poole, LTC Billie J. Barcus, and Colonel Hazel W. Johnson;

WHEREAS, the program initially provided financial assistance to 135 qualified high school graduates who desired to complete a four-year program in nursing;

WHEREAS, WRAIN differed from many other nursing programs because it drew students from across the country and attracted large numbers of males and African Americans;

WHEREAS, WRAIN officially closed on June 30, 1978 after 11 years of operations in which a total of 1,219 students graduated from the program;

WHEREAS, during WRAINs' 11 years, the program was considered one of the most prestigious nursing programs in the country and produced noted nursing alums in both military and civilian fields;

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WHEREAS, the WRAIN Class of 1969 was the second class to graduate from the program;
and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2019 the Walter Reed team will be hosting 60 veterans from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing class of 1969 as they celebrate their 50th class reunion.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing Class of 1969 50th Class Reunion Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council celebrates the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing class of 1969 on their 50th anniversary and recognizes them as “the second class, but second to none”.

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