

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-219

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 17, 2019

To recognize and celebrate, Reverend James E. Coates for over 60 years of service as the Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Anacostia.

WHEREAS, Reverend James E. Coates was licensed for ministry by Gethsemane Baptist Church in 1948 and ordained in May 1954;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates attended Howard University School of Divinity graduating at the top of his class;

WHEREAS, prior to becoming a Pastor, Reverend Coates served as chaplain to migratory agricultural workers in upstate New York and as Director of Christian Educational Activities at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church;

WHEREAS, at Gethsemane Baptist Church, Reverend Coates Pastored the Junior Church, assisted the sexton, played the piano, ushered as a junior usher, and sang in and assisted the Director of Choir No. 2;

WHEREAS, in addition to his Pastoral ministry Reverend Coates was a faculty member at the Washington Baptist Seminary for 10 years;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates served as the executive director for 3 multi-service anti-poverty programs in the early sixties and seventies;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates was the leader of the \$5 million Anacostia Community School Project and staff chaplain/therapist at St. Elizabeth's Hospital;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates served in 2 elected positions as the President of the first elected DC Public Schools Board of Education in 1969 and as Ward 8 Representative on the first elected District of Columbia City Council in 1975;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates currently serves as a clinical member of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, a Licensed Professional Counselor and is a member of several boards and commissions;

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates is currently leading Bethlehem Baptist Church in a Multi-Use Development Project, including a new church sanctuary with an adjoining cultural arts and educational facility; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Coates is married to Marcia Hall Coates, a retired Federal Government Senior Executive Service career employee, with whom he shares the parenting of 4 children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Reverend James E. Coates Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Reverend James E. Coates for his community activism, lifelong commitment to service, and faithful leadership.

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