

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-244

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 4, 2020

To recognize the 75th anniversary of the Seafarers Yacht Club, their dedication to keeping the Anacostia River clean, and their important cultural contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the Seafarers Yacht Club is one of the nation's oldest Black boating organizations;

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles "Bob" Martin, who at the age of 12 was not allowed to rent a boat at the waterfront because he was Black, vowed to get a boat and eventually started the boat club, D.C. Mariners, in the 1950s;

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis T. Green, Mr. Martin's former shop teacher who wanted to start a boat club for himself and other Black boaters in the city, got the attention of philanthropist Mary McLeod Bethune who then contacted her friend, First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt for assistance;

WHEREAS, in 1945, the Interior Department allowed Mr. Green to use a small plot of land by the railroad tracks near the Anacostia River where the Seafarers Boat Club began;

WHEREAS, Mr. Green later advised Mr. Martin to change his club's name from the D.C. Mariners to the Seafarers Boat Club and to replace Mr. Green as commodore;

WHEREAS, the Seafarers Boat Club was reborn in 1965, and the name was officially changed years later to the Seafarers Yacht Club;

WHEREAS, the Seafarers Yacht Club are stewards of the Anacostia River and have organized an annual Anacostia River cleanup since 1985;

WHEREAS, the Seafarers' clubhouse has long been a place that is open to the community where club members and their friends and family can commune;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, This resolution may be cited as the “Seafarers Yacht Club 75th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the continuing importance of highlighting people and organizations in our community for their unique contributions to the District of Columbia.

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