

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-311

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 10, 2020

To recognize Daniel Smith for his tremendous service and impact on Ward 4, the District of Columbia, and the United States.

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith was born in Winsted, Connecticut, on March 11, 1932, to Clara Wheeler Smith and Abram Smith, a former slave, making Daniel Smith one of the few surviving African-American children of a slave;

WHEREAS, after Daniel Smith graduated from Gilbert High School in Winsted, Connecticut, he served in the U.S. military as an operating room technician and a scrub nurse in the Korean War;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts in 1960, where he majored in general studies and minored in psychology and sociology, and also served as student body president;

WHEREAS, after graduating college, Daniel Smith worked as a social worker for 3 years;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith continued his pursuit of higher education at the Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine, but withdrew from school to join the civil rights movement;

WHEREAS, in 1965, Daniel Smith accepted a position as executive director of the Lowndes Christian Movement for Human Rights organization and started directing a program to teach migrant seasonal farmworkers how to read and write;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith participated in many civil rights activities, putting his life at risk to help others, and accompanied Martin Luther King, Jr. on the march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith moved to Washington, D.C. in 1968, where he developed neighborhood health centers;

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WHEREAS, while at the Office of Economic Opportunity, Daniel Smith served as Assistant Chief of Program Development, and developed a national program of Neighborhood Health Centers that provided ambulatory health care for low income communities throughout the United States, using a medical team approach;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith was responsible for developing Neighborhood Health Centers in Bedford Stuyvesant, San Francisco's Chinatown, and St. Louis, and also established and served as Chief of the Office of Economic Opportunity's Consumer Affairs Office, where he designed a pilot multi-dimensional training program;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith became the National Director and Chief of the Area Health Education Program (AHEC) in 1972 where he worked with medical schools throughout the United States to provide more primary care and family practice physicians and related health professionals, and would go on to become known as the "father of AHEC," receiving a distinguished service award for his outstanding management of the program;

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Daniel Smith was awarded an Intergovernmental Personal Agreement position at Georgetown University Medical School as a Research Associate before he returned to the federal government as Director of Bilateral and Sub-Saharan African Programs in the Office of International Health where he was responsible for developing Emergency Medical Services programs in Lebanon, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith was called upon by the White House in 1986 to assist the Republic of South Africa in developing a program similar to the Area Health Education Program (AHEC) he developed over a decade prior;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith retired from the federal government in 1994, and began volunteering at the Korean War Veterans Memorial;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith served as head usher of the Washington National Cathedral, and escorted sitting presidents for 3 decades, from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith established and owns Takoma Enterprise LLC in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Daniel Smith served as Financial Secretary for the Ward 4 Democrats for a number of years; and

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WHEREAS, Daniel Smith met Loretta Neumann in 2002 and the two were married on October 8, 2006 at the Washington National Cathedral, and they reside in the Takoma neighborhood of Ward 4.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Daniel Smith Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates the tremendous accomplishments of Daniel Smith.

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