

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-131

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 1, 2022

To honor the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to commemorate his 92nd birthday, and to designate Monday, January 17, 2022, as “Dr. King’s Celebration of Excellence featuring Howard University vs. the University of Notre Dame Men’s Basketball” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Dr. King was raised in a home where education was a priority;

WHEREAS, at age 15, Dr. King was a scholar enrolled in Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, a historically Black college for men, and graduated in 1948 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology;

WHEREAS, Dr. King was raised in a Christian home, was a spiritual and religious man, and decided to follow in the path of his father, a minister, by enrolling in his first integrated school, Crozer Theological Seminary in Upland, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1951;

WHEREAS, Dr. King continued his educational and religious studies as a doctoral student at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts, where he also audited philosophy classes at Harvard University, and earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Systemic Theology in 1955 at the age of 26;

WHEREAS, Dr. King led his family as husband and father, his churches as pastor, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as co-founder;

WHEREAS, Dr. King engaged in civil rights movement actions throughout the South, including the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, the student-led Atlanta Student Movement sit-ins beginning in 1960, the 1965 Alabama voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, and, of great import to the District of Columbia, the March on Washington on August 28, 1963;

WHEREAS, Dr. King highlighted the inherent ties between “racism, economic exploitation, and militarism”; made clear “we can’t solve our problem now until there is a radical redistribution of economic and political power”; and recognized in his Nobel Peace Prize Lecture of 1964 that “the rich must not ignore the poor because both rich and poor are tied in a single garment of destiny”;

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WHEREAS, each year in the District of Columbia, Howard University honors Dr. King's Celebration of Excellence by hosting nonconference men's basketball contests against iconic historical institutions;

WHEREAS, this year Howard University invited the University of Notre Dame to participate in the annual game, marking the first time Notre Dame has competed against a team on the campus of an Historically Black College and University and demonstrates a desire to bridge a pathway between programs from the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference;

WHEREAS, Howard University, founded in 1867, has furthered its mission to eliminate the inequities related to race, color, social, economic, and political circumstances and continues to develop some of the most talented Black scholars, activists, theologians, educators, and athletes for the benefit of the world;

WHEREAS, the University of Notre Dame, as a leading Catholic University established in 1842, is committed to the search for truth, justice, and human dignity, which involves scholarship, research, teaching, and, in general, a dedicated attentiveness to poverty, injustice, and oppression;

WHEREAS, Howard University's Men's Basketball Coach Kenneth Blakeney and the University of Notre Dame's Men's Basketball Coach Michael Brey both have long-standing ties to the District of Columbia and to each other;

WHEREAS, both Howard University Coach Kenneth Blakeney and the University of Notre Dame Coach Michael Brey are natives of the District of Columbia, attended DeMatha Catholic High School, were mentored and coached by the legendary Coach Morgan Wootten, were later together at Duke University as student-athlete and coach, and worked together at the University of Delaware as Head Assistant and Head Coach, respectively;

WHEREAS, Howard University and the University of Notre Dame joined together to form a partnership with When We All Vote, a national nonpartisan nonprofit with a mission of encouraging greater voter participation and closing the race and age voting gap ahead of the 2020 elections; and

WHEREAS, both on and off the basketball court, the annual game honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Celebration of Excellence stands as a demonstration of unity, collegiality, and sportsmanship.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the, "Dr. King's Celebration of Excellence featuring Howard University vs. the University of Notre Dame Men's Basketball Recognition Resolution of 2022".

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Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the historic first of this matchup, as well as the contributions of Howard University and the University of Notre Dame in furthering the educational, spiritual, athletic, and moral development of their students, and declares Monday, January 17, 2022, as “Dr. King’s Celebration of Excellence featuring Howard University vs. the University of Notre Dame Men’s Basketball” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.