

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-74

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 6, 2023

To recognize and honor Julia Washburn on the occasion of her retirement as Superintendent of Rock Creek Park for the National Park Service.

WHEREAS, Washington, DC native Julia Washburn spent the majority of her career with the National Park Service (NPS) in the Washington, DC area;

WHEREAS, after graduation for Mount Holyoke College with a bachelor's degree in Psychobiology, Ms. Washburn served 2 years with the United States Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa;

WHEREAS, in 1989, Ms. Washburn returned home to Washington, DC to work for the National Park Service as a park ranger at National Capital Parks East, later worked for the National Capital Regional Office and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, and in 1996, became Chief of Resource Management and Visitor Services for Rock Creek Park;

WHEREAS, in 1999, Ms. Washburn left NPS to become Senior Vice President for Grants and Programs at the National Park Foundation and then worked in the private sector before returning to NPS in 2010 as the first Associate Director for Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers. In that capacity, she spearheaded the NPS *Every Kid in a Park* program which brought millions of 4th graders into national parks across the nation. Ms. Washburn also played a critical role in the development of NPS relevancy, diversity, and inclusion efforts, and worked collaboratively with numerous non-profit partners;

WHEREAS, in 2017, Ms. Washburn returned to Rock Creek Park as the park's Superintendent. During her tenure, she oversaw the transition of the upper portion of Beach Drive to permanent, non-motorized recreational use which has increased access to safe outdoor recreation in the District, and the removal of Melvin Hazen's name from reservation 630. Hazen was one of the District Commissioners in the early 20th Century who was directly responsible for the removal of African American residents and intentional housing segregation for white citizens in large sections of northwest Washington, DC; and

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, as Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, Ms. Washburn has served as a tireless advocate for sharing a more inclusive park history, increasing park access for neighbors and visitors, preserving the natural bounty of the Park, and building community with residents, local leaders, and partners.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Julia Washburn Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates the many contributions that Julia Washburn has made to the District of Columbia through her work with the National Park Service, and wishes her and her husband, William Kules, well in their retirement.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.