

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-140

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 7, 2023

To posthumously celebrate the life and legacy of “Mayor” Faith Dane community activist and advocate for the arts, champion of D.C. statehood and candidate for public office on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, October 3, 1923, marks the date of birth of Faith Dane in Brooklyn, New York;

WHEREAS, thanks to a federally funded program that provided jobs to unemployed persons during the Great Depression of the 1930s – President Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration (WPA) – Faith Dane was able to study and become a Broadway actress, dancer, musician, and portrait painter;

WHEREAS, Faith Dane starred for many years in a cabaret show that spanned burlesque, calypso, comedy, dance, jazz, performance art and a piano medley that included Bach, Chopin and Debussy – an act performed in a body stocking;

WHEREAS, Faith Dane received wide acclaim when she originated the character of “Miss Mazeppa” on the Broadway stage version of “GYPSY” and reprised her role in the 1962 film production;

WHEREAS, Faith Dane moved from the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1979 and claimed the District of Columbia as her adopted home for more than 40 years;

WHEREAS, Faith Dane legally changed her name to simply Faith;

WHEREAS, Faith was rarely seen without her signature prop – a bugle – which she used to draw much needed attention and advocacy to arts outreach, D.C. statehood and running for public office;

WHEREAS, Faith proved “YOU GOTTA HAVE A GIMMICK” when she performed the “CHARGE CHEER” and blew her horn at Presidents, Members of Congress and D.C. politicians – often from between her legs;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Faith served one term as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner representing the Single Member District 1C05;

WHEREAS, Faith ran twice for the Senate in St. Croix (U.S. Virgin Islands), once for Delegate to the United States Congress to represent the District of Columbia, once for U.S. Representative to represent the District of Columbia and 6 times for Mayor of the District of Columbia – most recently at age 91 – and was lovingly referred to as “Mayor Faith” in community;

WHEREAS, “Mayor” Faith often campaigned while riding a horse in local parades;

WHEREAS, Faith serenaded campaign audiences with her song, “WE ARE D.C.” – sung to the tune of “WE ARE THE WORLD” accompanied by her long-time partner Jude The Obscure;

WHEREAS, Faith believed strongly in the power of “arts around-the-clock” – a festival of free performances and training programs – to heal the ills of poverty, injustice, and racism;

WHEREAS, it was Faith’s ambition to create a WPA-like Free Arts Outreach for people of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Faith dedicated more than a quarter of a century to D.C.’s independent sovereignty to include a future with health care, quality education and environmental justice for our children based on stars and artists (STARS WAR) performing with our children and world artists performing with our citizens and youth attracting a year-round fruitful arts economy;

WHEREAS, Faith literally trumpeted the cause of D.C. statehood – and independence – to “FREE D.C.” and gain equal democratic rights for 700,000 Washingtonians;

WHEREAS, Faith engineered a new government based on empowering each Advisory Neighborhood Commission to become a mini-government which would allow each citizen to promote our own legislative needs and create a pure democracy;

WHEREAS, Faith firmly believed in running for public office to effectuate the change she believed in – as well as to increase diversity and inclusiveness in our community;

WHEREAS, at age 96, Faith left us too soon on April 7, 2020, but will never be forgotten.

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

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2 The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life of Faith for her powerful impact on the lives of artists, community advocates, D.C. statehood activists, elected officials and the media through her dedication to the arts, political activism and grassroots organizing for the betterment of all the people of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.