

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-169

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2024

To celebrate the life and continued work of Paul Kuntzler as a pioneering gay activist and political strategist who has dedicated over 5 decades of his life to advancing the rights and visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuntzler is known as a pioneer and Founding Father of the modern LGBTQ+ movement in Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuntzler played a pivotal role in the formation of the Gay Activists Alliances in 1971 and co-founded the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club in 1976 (now known as the Capital Stonewall Democrats), contributing significantly to the emergence of the local gay community as a significant player and coalition builder in DC politics and the local power structure; and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuntzler actively pushed for the inclusion of gay rights and gay delegates during the D.C. Democratic State Committee conventions of 1972, 1976 and 1980, thereby continuing the push for recognition and participation and power for LGBTQ+ rights within the political mainstream;

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuntzler's involvement in local political campaigns, including his support for Marion Barry's first mayoral campaign, showcased the growing importance of the gay community in shaping election outcomes;

WHEREAS, then-Mayor Marion Barry issued a proclamation declaring April 9, 1981 as Paul Kuntzler Day in the District;

WHEREAS, Mr. Paul Kuntzler marched in front of the White House on several occasions as part of a growing coalition of LGBTQ+ activists focused on achieving full rights and privileges for those in the Federal government workforce, bringing his activism to a new, broader, and national level.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Paul Kuntzler Recognition Resolution of 2024."

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 2 The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the incredible service of Paul Kuntzler in recognition of his recent 82nd birthday and extends its deepest gratitude for his enduring commitment to earning the LGBTQ+ community in Washington, D.C.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.