

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To honor the extraordinary life of Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. who dedicated his fifty-eight year career to protecting the political, civil and economic rights of all people, defending disadvantaged communities, inspiring dynamic social change, and encouraging future generations to learn and flourish.

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. was raised in the District and spent his formidable years attending Dunbar High School in Ward 5 before matriculating to Howard University;

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. served in the United States Army for two years in 1951, a time when less than nine percent of military service members were African American;

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. returned from duty and pursued a law degree at Howard University School of Law where he earned accolades including the Hobart Taylor, Sr. Scholastic Award in 1953, the Trustees' Scholarship in 1954, and the American Law Student Association's "Silver Key" for outstanding service;

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. was the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the Howard Law Journal (1954-1955) and President of the Student Bar Association;

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq., a stellar student, served as a research assistant under the instruction of civil rights activist and professor Charles Hamilton Houston and Herbert O. Reid, Sr., to assist in preparing Supreme Court briefs for the landmark public school desegregation case *Bolling v. Sharpe*;

WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. served as a trial attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for the federal government's Housing and Home Finance Agency, currently the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

45 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq., while at the Housing and Home Finance Agency,
46 litigated for urban renewal, equitable community facilities, and the liquidation of the
47 Reconstruction Finance Corporation;

48
49 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. attended Columbia University Law School where
50 he earned a Master of Laws Degree in 1960;

51
52 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. joined the faculty at Howard University School of
53 Law where he served as professor of law for 34 years;

54
55 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. developed the pioneering seminar, Urban
56 Problems which analyzed empirical data to shape critical legal theory by activating normative
57 and substantive change through the exploration of political, and social transformation in urban
58 centers;

59
60 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. served as Director of the Howard Law School
61 Urban Problems Project where he readied young lawyers with the knowledge, resources, and
62 passion to mend fractured systems;

63
64 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq.'s effective outcome-driven leadership impacted
65 the D.C. Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Neighborhood Legal Services Program of
66 the District of Columbia, the United Planning Organization, the Model Cities Commission, the
67 Council's Committee on Crime and Administration of Justice, the Department of Health,
68 Education and Welfare, and the D.C. Bicentennial Commission;

69
70 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq.'s distinctive legal strategies influenced the high-
71 profile cases of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Free D.C. Movement; the
72 NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., the Poor People's Campaign and the D.C. School Board's
73 case *Hobson v. Hansen*;

74
75 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. and Herbert O. Reid, Sr., drafted and lobbied the
76 landmark Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, dismantling discriminatory poll taxes and other
77 legal barriers preventing African-Americans from exercising their right to vote guaranteed under
78 the U.S. Constitution;

79
80 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. co-founded the nonprofit Frederick Douglass
81 Foundation of Washington, D.C., Incorporated, to sustain the memory and spirit of the late orator
82 and abolitionist Frederick Douglass;

83
84 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq.'s was married to his beloved wife, Jeanne L.
85 Parks, for 58 years;

86
87 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq.'s professional drive never surpassed his love for
88 family including his son, John B. Parks, daughter-in-law, Tracy N. Wiggins-Parks and grandson,
89 John W. Parks; and

91 WHEREAS, Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq.'s purpose was greater than himself, and his legacy
92 is the testament of a "gentle giant".

93
94 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
95 resolution may be cited as the "Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq., Posthumous Recognition Resolution of
96 2018".

97
98 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes the extraordinary
99 life of Jeanus B. Parks, Jr., Esq. and celebrates his achievements, unyielding dedication to the legal
100 field, and unconditional devotion to his family.

101
102 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
103 the District of Columbia Register.