

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-54

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 4, 2023

To recognize and honor the life and legacy of William Henry Outlaw, on the occasion of his passing at the age of 95, for his overwhelming contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, William Henry Outlaw was born on March 2, 1927, in the District of Columbia in an apartment above what is now a dry cleaner at the corner of Eighth and C Streets, NE;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw, upon the death of his mother, Mrs. Carrie Outlaw, in 1936, would begin living with his aunt and uncle in the house he would call home for the next 84 years on the 200 block of Tenth Street, NE;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw was known as the ‘Mayor of Tenth Street’;

WHEREAS, in 1949, Mr. Outlaw married his first wife and had 2 children, Carolyn Dorothy Outlaw and William Henry Outlaw, Jr.;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw later married his second wife, Ms. Pocahontas “Pokie” Outlaw, in 1969, and they raised their 2 children in the Tenth Street neighborhood;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw was a devoted father and husband;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw worked at the Naval Ordnance Station in Indian Head, Maryland, where he trained as an engineer and was on the team that created the first U.S. missile sent into space;

WHEREAS, drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952, Mr. Outlaw served in the Korean War and worked at the Naval Ordnance Station until his retirement in 1982;

WHEREAS, after retiring, Mr. and Mrs. Outlaw opened a restaurant – Outlaw’s Kitchen – in 1984, which the community would use as a much-needed gathering place until the restaurant’s closure in 2000 following health challenges of Mr. Outlaw;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw recovered from a stroke and went right back to work doing what

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he did best: caring for his community, oftentimes picking up trash and sweeping sidewalks, and beautifying the neighborhood for all;

WHEREAS, in an example of his unfailing kindness and service to others, Mr. Outlaw took on a new job after his restaurant closed, becoming a package intake specialist of sorts for the entire Tenth Street community in wake of widespread package thefts at the time, instructing neighbors to send all packages to his home and scheduling an organized pickup operation for more than 100 residents around the community;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw would create space and opportunity for those around the community to connect with each other and form a unified bond, something that many of them might not have otherwise done;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw would devote himself to leading with dignity and grace, uplifting and encouraging others to be better versions of themselves;

WHEREAS, Mr. Outlaw and “Ma Pokie” worshipped at the John Wesley AME Zion Church; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2023, just two months shy of his 96th birthday, Mr. Outlaw passed away at his longtime home in Capitol Hill, leaving behind a wealth of family, friends, and appreciative community members.

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

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life and legacy of William Henry Outlaw, on the occasion of his passing at the age of 95, for his overwhelming contributions to the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.