

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-63

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 2, 2023

To recognize, honor, and congratulate the Howard University men’s swimming and diving team for its first NCAA Conference Championship in over 30 years.

WHEREAS, Howard University is located alongside Georgia Avenue in Ward 1, with its university motto being ‘Veritas et Utilitas, Truth and Service’;

WHEREAS, Howard University is the only HBCU to have an NCAA swimming and diving program;

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team finished the year with a winning record for the fifth consecutive season, finishing at 6-2;

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team, during its 2022 – 2023 campaign reset 16 of the 20 School records (5 Relay and 11 Individual);

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team Director and Head Coach was inducted into the Howard University Athletics Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a Howard University dual sport student-athlete (Swimming & Tennis);

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team hosted the largest dual meet in HBCU history, Battle at the Burr;

WHEREAS, the Battle at the Burr received National attention and positively influenced the swimming world, putting collegiate swimming and diving in the spotlight;

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team is the first all-black swimming and diving team to be featured on the daily cover of the globally syndicated magazine, Sports Illustrated;

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team won the 2023 Northeast Conference Swimming and Diving Championship in Geneva, Ohio in dominant fashion;

WHEREAS, Howard University men’s swimming and diving team shattered 10 Northeast Conference records (4 Relay and 6 Individual);

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WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team earned an impressive 21 total medals at the Northeast Conference Championships (12 Gold, 3 Silver, and 6 Bronze);

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team took home several Conference honors including Most Outstanding Swimmer, Most Outstanding Diver, Diving Coach of the Year, and Coaching Staff of the Year;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team's conference title drew recognition from ESPN, CNN, NPR, NBC Nightly News, ABC World News, BET, Essence Magazine, Revolt Network, and several other media outlets;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team has continued to promote water safety and drowning prevention;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team's coaching staff consists of Dr. Miriam Lynch, Salim King, Courtenay Miller, Jasmine Payne, Sidney Williams, and Jake Garza;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team was also supported by two student-managers, Iman Ferguson and Gabriel Rose;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team is led by Hall of Famer, Conference Coach of the Year, Professional of the Year, and National Coach of the Year, Nicholas Askew;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team's Director and Head Coach, Nicholas Askew is the recipient of the 2023 Drake Hero Award presented by the Drake Group Education Fund;

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving team's Director and Head Coach, Nicholas Askew is a dedicated advocate for legislation to increase the amount of access for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Howard University men's swimming and diving championship winning team members include: Miles Simon – Captain; Mark-Anthony Beckles – Captain; Luke-Kennedy Thompson – Captain; Tai Afrik; Taj Benton; Kevin Claiborne; Brenton Cooper; Miguel Davis Jr.; Ahmad Dove; Cyrus Gibson; Darin Johnson; Spencer Miles; Jordane Payne; Vaughn Peoples-Hobson; Niles Rankin; Reese Samuel; Arion Solomon; Tristan Stevens; Mark-Anthony Thompson; Erald Thompson III; Ty Triche; Jordan Walker; Langston Weddington; Joel Wilkinson; and Darien Williams.

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RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Howard University Men’s Swimming and Diving Team 2023 Northeast Conference Championship Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Howard University men’s swimming and diving team for winning the 2023 NEC Championship.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.