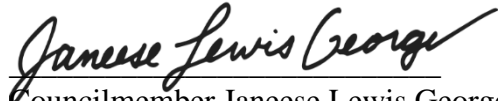


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2 Councilmember Matthew Frumin



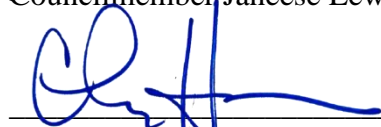
Councilmember Charles Allen

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5 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Anita Bonds

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8 Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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12 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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18 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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22 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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26  
27 To recognize and honor the life and accomplishments of Admiral Jim Toole.

28  
29 WHEREAS, Admiral Morton “Jim” Toole was born in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on  
30 February 14, 1937;

31 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole’s father, who was a career Army officer and who retired as a  
32 colonel, earned the Legion of Merit during World War II, and later moved the family to Menlo  
33 Park, California;

34 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole, according to his daughter, said that he wanted to go into the  
35 Navy and make his career there because his father already had a successful career in the Army;

36 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole studied American history at the University of California at Los  
37 Angeles, serving in the Navy ROTC, and received his Bachelor’s degree and commission in 1957;

38           WHEREAS, Adm. Toole spent 6 years at sea with the Navy before moving to the District  
39 to work on guided-missile systems, and he took night classes at American University to receive a  
40 Master’s degree in International Relations;

41           WHEREAS, when Adm. Toole graduated from American University in 1966, he had been  
42 assigned to Vietnam, where he commanded more than 50 American patrol boats on the Mekong  
43 River and earned the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star;

44           WHEREAS, Adm. Toole later commanded a radar-picket destroyer, guided-missile  
45 frigate, and guided-missile cruiser before retiring from the Navy in 1987;

46           WHEREAS, by the early 1990s, Adm. Toole began frequenting Capitol Hill Books, opened  
47 and founded by Bill Kerr in 1991, and located in the Eastern Market neighborhood in a three-floor  
48 rowhouse;

49           WHEREAS, after Mr. Kerr passed away in 1994, Adm. Toole bought the store in 1995  
50 from Mr. Kerr’s sister;

51           WHEREAS, during his tenure as owner of Capitol Hill Books, he became known for his  
52 charmingly grumpy presence at the front desk and filling the store with books in every conceivable  
53 space, with fiction upstairs, nonfiction on the ground level, sports and science-fiction in the  
54 basement, cookbooks in the former kitchen sink, and foreign language books in the bathroom;

55           WHEREAS, Adm. Toole was also known for his system of “controlled disorganization”,  
56 as he would refer to it, arranging books in tall stacks and naming them “Tolkien Tower” and  
57 “Wacko Stacko”, which housed books by right-wing personalities;

58           WHEREAS, Adm. Toole was also known for requiring order and decorum at Capitol Hill  
59 Books, banning the wearing of backpacks and cellphone conversations inside the store, and having  
60 a list of “banned words” from conversation, such as the use of the words “perfect,” “awesome,”

61 “like,” and “totally”;

62 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole’s sense of humor and unique, old-fashioned approach to sales –  
63 he used a pencil to record each transaction – earned him a devoted following;

64 WHEREAS, in July 2018, Adm. Toole sold Capitol Hill Books to long-time employees  
65 and friends of the store, noting that the new owners shared his vision for preserving Capitol Hill  
66 Books as an independent bookstore and ensuring that the business maintains its place as a literary  
67 hub for the community;

68 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole was known for his wit, charming curmudgeoness, and generosity,  
69 all of which contributed to Capitol Hill Books becoming as a staple in the Capitol Hill community  
70 and a nationally-known, eclectic bookstore;

71 WHEREAS, Adm. Toole tragically passed away on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2023,  
72 and is survived by his wife, daughter, three stepchildren, and six grandchildren;

73 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
74 resolution may be cited as the "Jim Toole Posthumous Recognition Resolution of 2023".

75 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life and  
76 accomplishments of Admiral Jim Toole.

77 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.