

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-185

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2024

To celebrate the life and advocacy of Ella Creech Peete; a true pioneer, long-time dedicated public servant, proud Washingtonian, and advocate for equality and justice.

WHEREAS, Ella Creech Peete was a native of North Carolina who moved here to join her Washington, DC family;

WHEREAS, Ella's exemplary career started with her employment as one of a small number of Blacks hired by the Marriott Corporation, where she progressed to become one of their first Black store managers, showcasing her early ability to break racial and gender barriers in the corporate world;

WHEREAS, Ella left her position at the Marriott Corporation to join her uncle, R.N. Horton in his family-owned business, Horton's Funeral Service, and was a significant contributor to its success;

WHEREAS, Mr. Horton and his family grew his mortuary business into one of the most prominent and successful businesses along the East Coast with Ella serving as the Vice President;

WHEREAS, Ella and her family were among the founders of the Black Chamber of Commerce in the District of Columbia, creating an organization that advocated for Black business owners along the entire East Coast;

WHEREAS, Ella's leadership and involvement extended to both local and national organizations, including her role as Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary of National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association and Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Independent Funeral Directors of Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, her commitment to community organizations such as her Citizens Association, ANC activities and her active participation in church activities demonstrated her dedication to her fellow Washingtonians and her desire to be involved and enhance the quality of life in her community;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Ella's active participation in the Civil Rights Movement; her exemplary allegiance to her church, *Bible Way Baptist*; her advocacy for women's rights; and, her dedication to supporting young people and seniors in need, demonstrate her compassion and unwavering commitment to her faith and to social justice;

WHEREAS, Ella's political involvement included her roles as an active member of the National Federation of Democratic Women and the President of the local chapter, precinct captain, elected Ward 4 and At-Large member on the DC Democratic State Committee, and Delegate to the DNC National Convention;

WHEREAS, she was named Woman of the Year by the Ward 4 Democrats in recognition of her character and commitment to Democratic values and the power of voting;

WHEREAS, Ella was an early supporter and outstanding volunteer in the first Marion Barry for Mayor campaign, where her sincerity and support was felt to be genuine because she truly believed that his motivation was to improve the quality of life of the residents of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Ella Creech Peete was a pioneer in illustrating that Black women present a force to be reckoned with in business, finance, community activism and politics;

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Ella Creech Peete Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2024."

Sec. 2 The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the incredible life of Ella Creech Peete, and we express our deepest condolences to her entire family and the District community for the loss of a woman who symbolized strength, integrity, and dedication to family, community, and faith.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.