

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-200

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2024

To posthumously recognize and honor Wanda Anita Oates for her exceptional resilience and tireless dedication to education, athletics, and community empowerment in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Wanda Anita Oates was born in Washington, DC in 1942, and devoted her life to providing equal access to athletic programs for all students, regardless of gender or background;

WHEREAS, Coach Oates graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School and Howard University and emerged as a leader in her community, navigating through the challenges of the post-Brown versus Board of Education era with grace and determination;

WHEREAS, despite the absence of sports programs for girls during her youth, Coach Oates pursued her passion for athletics, ultimately becoming a championship-winning coach and inspiration for countless individuals;

WHEREAS, Coach Oates' tenure as a physical education teacher and coach at Ballou High School exemplifies her unwavering commitment to empowering and nurturing young people;

WHEREAS, recognizing the inequities faced by female athletes, Coach Oates pioneered the establishment of girls' sports programs; including, basketball, volleyball, track and field, and softball, paving the way for future generations of athletes;

WHEREAS, Coach Oates' dedication to her students transcended the realm of athletics, as she instilled invaluable life lessons and fostered a culture of excellence both on and off the court and field;

WHEREAS, despite facing adversity and resistance, Coach Oates remained steadfast in her pursuit of equality and opportunity for all, challenging societal norms and breaking barriers;

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WHEREAS, Coach Oates became the first woman to coach boys' varsity high school basketball team in the District when she assumed the role at Ballou following her success with the girls' team;

WHEREAS, Coach Oates led Ballou High School to championships in the 1990s with her friend and assistant coach, Brenda Speaks, by her side;

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious career, Coach Oates' results were impressive, with 10 league championships over 13 years as the head coach of the girls' basketball team at Ballou and in 1991, the first championship for the boys' team in 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Oates was inducted into the Scholastic Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 and the D.C. Hall of Fame in 2014, further solidifying her legacy as a trailblazer and role model.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Coach Wanda Anita Oates Recognition Resolution of 2024."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life and legacy of Coach Wanda Anita Oates as a native Washingtonian, a trailblazer, an advocate, a mentor, and a community builder.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.