

  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

---

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

---

1 To posthumously honor the life and contributions of Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons.  
2

3 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was born August 1, 1943 as the third child  
4 of a homemaker and an entrepreneur who was a skilled furniture refinisher;  
5

6 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam era veteran  
7 and social justice activist of Washington, D.C., beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother,  
8 cousin, nephew, and organizer;  
9

10 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was the inaugural recipient of the Doctor  
11 of Philosophy degree in Revolutionary Theory and Practice from University of Revolution in  
12 August of 2023;  
13

14 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons, during his eight years of service in the  
15 U.S. Air Force, integrated the crypto service, learned fluent Japanese, modeled, acted in two  
16 movies, married, started a family, went to college, and received an honorable discharge and a  
17 request from the military that he not re-enlist;  
18

19 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons joined the Black Panther Party outspoken  
20 on radio and television in opposition to the Vietnam War;  
21

22 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons founded the Rubicon Door, a successful  
23 residential drug treatment program in his hometown of Norfolk, with a 1.5% recidivism rate,  
24 employing a program of intensive political education as key to its recidivism program;  
25

26 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons founded P.E.O.P.L.E., Inc., a  
27 commune/community group that educated and fed residents in large public gatherings that  
28 coupled education and musical concerts with social services access and outreach;  
29

30 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons worked and traveled with the U.S.-China  
31 Peoples Friendship Association to normalize relations;  
32

33 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons worked with the Revolutionary  
34 Union/Revolutionary Communist Party (RU/RCP) to fight for a just society in the U.S. and the  
35 world and end the exploitation of workers and other living beings;  
36

37 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons became active in and served as the  
38 Business Manager for the Gray Panthers of Metropolitan Washington where he helped found  
39 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee of D.C., travelled to Japan to the World Conference  
40 Against the A and H Bombs and fought to end war and against the proliferation of nuclear power  
41 while stressing the need to ally with people to meet their needs for housing, food, medical care,  
42 education, health care, justice;  
43

44 WHEREAS Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was known for sharing his artistry through  
45 his impeccable attire, his thrift store shop-a-holic adventures, creatively sharing his educational  
46 acumen and organizing prowess, his love and advocacy for people, justice, his family, and  
47 especially his class, the working class;  
48

49 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was guest speaker over the years, along  
50 with his wife Michele, on the ASK WELFARE RIGHTS broadcast where they would report on  
51 political trends that affected life in D.C. as “on-the-spot” news reporters who made the listening  
52 audience aware of politics in D.C. using skills honed in part during their time on WOL’s  
53 Political Power Hour;  
54

55 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons his wife Michele organized conferences  
56 and authored political papers, narratives, conference books, and were both founding and/or  
57 active members of the National Welfare Rights Union, the Gray Panthers of Metropolitan  
58 Washington, the Green Party Black Caucus, the Julius Kambarage Nyerere Commemoration;  
59

60 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons and his wife Michele were active in the  
61 movement for D.C. Statehood as active members of the D.C. Statehood Party and later the  
62 Statehood Green Party, each serving on its Central Committee and running for political office;  
63

64 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons was a professor of Black History,  
65 personally and professionally, for many years, as well as a devoted adult educator and organizer;  
66

67 WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons and his wife Michele, for the 25 years  
68 preceding the pandemic, annually hosted a 7-day open house and feast, to celebrate all 7 days  
69 and principles of Kwanzaa;  
70

71           WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons and his wife Michele recently completed a  
72 publication on Genocide as board members of National Welfare Rights Union;

73  
74           WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons played semi-pro football with the Brown  
75 Bombers of Norfolk, and sang with Voices by the Sea, a chorale group that performed in the  
76 Tidewater and East Coast region;

77  
78           WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons passed away on Wednesday, February 7,  
79 2024; and

80  
81           WHEREAS, Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons is remembered for his unending,  
82 unyielding struggles to secure justice for and with the working class.

83  
84           RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
85 resolution may be cited as the “Richard Lee Tingling-Clemmons Recognition Resolution of  
86 2024”.

87  
88           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia remembers the life of Richard Lee  
89 Tingling-Clemmons.

90  
91           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
92 the District of Columbia Register.