



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and commemorate Officer Gail Adrienne Cobb on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her tragic death.

WHEREAS, Gail Adrienne Cobb was born in Washington, DC on August 17, 1950, the second of five children, and grew up in a row house near the intersection of 14th and D Streets in Northeast, Washington, District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Gail Cobb's father was Clinton Cobb, a correctional Captain for the District of Columbia and her mother, Gloria Cobb, who worked as a crossing guard at Kingsman Elementary School and met Cobb's father at Cardozo High School;

WHEREAS, Cobb was educated in DC schools, including Elliot Jr. High School, Eastern High School, and the now-defunct St. Cecilia's Academy;

WHEREAS, in 1987, Cobb applied and was accepted to become a federal police officer, serving with what would later become the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Cobb graduated with her Metropolitan Police Academy Class in April 1974, along with 13 other women cadets, forming the largest graduating class of female police officers at that time in the United States;

WHEREAS, Cobb was said to be well-liked and diligent by her trainers and colleagues, who commended her for her hard work and service to her community, as evidenced by her taking sign language classes at night to communicate with the deaf population in our city;

WHEREAS, she spent most of her time on foot patrol work and volunteered for police training to get a motorcycle license;

50 WHEREAS, on Friday, September 20, 1974, around 10:30 am, Gail Adrienne Cobb was killed at
51 20th and L Streets, NW while in pursuit of two men with loaded sawed-off guns who had failed in their
52 attempt to rob a bank;

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54 WHEREAS, Cobb’s tragic death marked made her the first U.S. female police officer shot and
55 killed in the line of duty;

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57 WHEREAS, her funeral was lined with hundreds of police offers all standing at attention, a
58 police honor guard, the Mayor of the District of Columbia (Walter Washington), FBI Director Clarence
59 Kelley and numerous additional U.S. government officials;

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61 WHEREAS, then President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, called for a moment of silence
62 at the time of her funeral, stating that Cobb “has our lasting admiration for the cause of law enforcement
63 and well-being of our society, a cause for which she made the highest sacrifice.”

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65 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution
66 may be cited as the “Gail Adrienne Cobb Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2024.”

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68 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby honors and recognizes Gail Adrienne
69 Cobb and honor her legacy as a true daughter of the District of Columbia community who gave the
70 ultimate sacrifice to protect the safety of the residents of the District of Columbia.

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72 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the
73 District of Columbia Register.