

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

19-275

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 10, 2012

To posthumously honor the life and recognize the unique contributions of Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart, to recognize her many years of service to the District of Columbia and its residents, and to declare June 9, 2012, as "Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart Day" in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart, the descendant of 3 generations of Baptist ministers, was born on January 23, 1942 in Dublin, Georgia and located permanently in the District of Columbia in 1963 after arriving to participate in the March for Jobs and Freedom;

WHEREAS, Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart, due to illness, became homeless and resided in Lincoln Park, but overcame her adversities and gained employment with the federal Government Printing Office;

WHEREAS, Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart, determined to help other homeless people improve their lives, organized volunteers to find and organize temporary housing for 30 homeless people;

WHEREAS, these actions attracted the interest of the late Mayor Walter E. Washington whose support resulted in Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart becoming the first African American woman to purchase and open a homeless shelter, called the House of Imagene Shelter and Women's Center, in 1972, the same year she graduated with an A.A. degree from the University of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart ran this shelter for over 45 years until a fire destroyed the property in 2010, the same year she was diagnosed with cancer, but these setbacks never diminished her efforts, work, and compassion for others in need;

WHEREAS, Bishop Imagene Bingham Stewart was honored in 1989 by the International Black Women's Congress by being presented with the prestigious Oni Award for being diligent, persistent, and uncompromising;

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WHEREAS, Bishop Imogene Bingham Stewart became pastor of the Greater Pearly Gates Baptists Church, having been ordained by the Inter-Met Seminary in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Imogene Bingham Stewart worked even in her final days to bring comfort to others, but succumbed to her illness on May 30, 2012.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Bishop Imogene Bingham Stewart Posthumous Recognition Resolution of 2012".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the remarkable accomplishments of Bishop Imogene Bingham Stewart and declares June 9, 2012 as "Bishop Imogene Bingham Stewart Day" in the District of Columbia.

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