

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-143

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To celebrate the 100th birthday of Vanilla Beane and to recognize her sustained success in running Bene Millinery and Bridal Supplies and the example that she has set for those following in her footsteps as both an entrepreneur and a milliner.

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was born in Wilson, North Carolina on September 13, 1919;

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was married to the late Willie Bean, Sr. and the couple had three children, the late Willie Beane, Jr., Margaret Seymour of Charleston, South Carolina, and Linda Jefferson of Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, while working at the General Services Administration, Vanilla Beane started a home based, custom made hat business that she operated in the evenings and weekends;

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane began working at the Washington Millinery Supply Company in 1955 and upon the owner's retirement, Vanilla Beane was able to purchase the entire stock of millinery supplies and open her own business, Bene Millinery & Bridal Supplies;

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane started Bene Millinery & Bridal Supplies in 1979 and continues to oversee and operate the business today, 5 decades later;

WHEREAS, Bene Millinery & Bridal Supplies is most known for their celebrated hats, which are made and designed by Vanilla Beane herself;

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane has created hats for movies, charity events, and a guest attending The Royal Ascot and in 2018, a green turban made by Vanilla Beane was selected to be a part of Google's 3-D interactive exhibit curated at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture;

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WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane's hats have been worn by a wide variety of women, including Maya Angelou, Dorothy Height, and Washington, D.C.'s current Mayor Muriel Bowser, and were also mentioned by United States President Barack Obama at the funeral of Dorothy Height;

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was inducted into the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers Hall of Fame in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane continues to inspire others with her dedication to her beautiful work and we are lucky to have an incredible woman in the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Vanilla Beane 100th Birthday Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council honors Vanilla Beane on her 100th birthday for an incredible and accomplished life and look forward seeing her continue to inspire others through her work.

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