

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-316

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 10, 2020

To posthumously recognize, honor, and celebrate Dr. Marie M. B. Racine for her exemplary dedication, service, and contributions to others and to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Dr. Marie M.B. Racine was born in Les Cayes, Haiti on May 31, 1934;

WHEREAS, in 1963, Dr. Racine immigrated from Haiti to the District with her husband, Etzer, and 2 children, Mikaele and Karl, to escape the dictatorial Duvalier regime;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine excelled academically, including by earning a master's degree in Romance Languages from Howard University and a doctorate in French, Theoretical Linguistics, and Applied Linguistics from Georgetown University;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine also studied at the University of Cambridge; the University of Lille; the University of Madrid; and the Pensionnat Sainte Rose de Lima, Haiti;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine was fluent in 8 languages;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine began teaching at Howard University and then joined the faculty of the University of the District of Columbia ("UDC") (then Federal City College) for the remainder of her distinguished 45-year academic career;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine's scholarship focused on French and Creole languages, linguistics, and literature;

WHEREAS, at UDC, she served as a professor of foreign languages and linguistics beginning in 1969; Assistant Chair and then Chair of the Foreign Languages Department from 1969 to 1978; Associate and then Acting Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts from 1978 to 1988; Faculty Research Fellow for the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy from 1986 to 1993; Chair and Co-Chair of the Self Study from 2003 to 2005; Assessment Coordinator from 2003 to 2009; and, in her retirement, professor emerita from 2013 to 2020;

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WHEREAS, Dr. Racine inspired thousands of students in her role as a passionate educator and through international learning experiences, including in Haiti;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine was awarded a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship in Brazil and an American Council on Education Fellowship in Higher Education Administration;

WHEREAS, for her loyalty to UDC and commitment to her students, Dr. Racine was awarded the Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine also gave back to the District and federal governments, serving as the Director of the Health-Related Literacy in Black and Hispanic Senior Citizens Project for the U.S. Department of Agriculture/D.C. Agricultural Experiment Station from 1987 to 1997, and as a Commissioner and Secretary for the D.C. Education Licensure Commission from 1989 to 1993;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine ignited a love of Haitian culture and the Creole language in many others, especially through her instruction of Haitian Creole at UDC, at the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in the District, and in her native country of Haiti;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine was active in organizations in the United States, Latin America, and Haiti focusing on education, women's rights, social justice, and Haitian culture, including the Akademi Kreyòl Ayisyen, the Center for Economic Justice in Haiti, Fonkoze, the Washington Office on Haiti, the Haitian Refugee Project, and the Lambi Fund of Haiti;

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine lived a life of distinguished scholarship and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Racine passed away on July 23, 2020, at age 86, surrounded by her loving children, Mikaele Racine and Karl Racine – the District's first elected Attorney General, her sister France Buteau, and her grandchildren.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Dr. Marie M. B. Racine Posthumous Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes, honors, and celebrates Dr. Marie M. B. Racine for her exemplary dedication, service, and contributions to others and to the District of Columbia.

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