

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-330

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To recognize and honor Thelma Mrazek for her outstanding accomplishments as a public servant and commend her for her contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek was born in Macon, Georgia and raised in Jacksonville, Florida;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek is an alumna of Duke University where she received her B.A. in Political Science and the University of Pennsylvania where she received her M.A. in International Relations;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek relocated to Washington to work for Congressman Charles E. Bennett of Jacksonville, Florida where her work focused on constituent services;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek then sought to pursue a career in “saving the world for Democracy” leading her to pursue a master’s degree;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek worked for the Foreign Policy Association in New York City with a team of scholars who produced “Great Decisions” study materials that provided impartial thought-provoking analyses of issues of concern to U.S. policymakers;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek was able to take advantage of new opportunities afforded to women in the corporate arena and moved to Time Life’s New York headquarters where she became Chief Researcher and worked closely with authors on the final editing and production of books;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek transitioned to a career in the public sector when she became Editor for President Lyndon Johnson’s President’s Commission on Crime, and organized briefing sessions for law enforcement officials;

WHEREAS, during the President Richard M. Nixon Administration, Thelma Mrazek edited reports of the President’s Commission on Organized Crime;

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WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek edited and worked as a freelancer for trade associations as well as serving as Washington Editor of U.S. Water News;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek's husband, Col. James Mrazek, was a West Point graduate who served as an officer during WWII and helped found the Airborne Operations;

WHEREAS, a glider infantryman, Col. James Mrazek went on to write books about the unique work of his unit, and his books included "The Art of Winning Wars" (1968), "The Fall of Eben Emael" (1971), "The Glider War" (1975) and "Fighting Gliders of World War II" (1977);

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek and her husband traveled throughout Europe and interviewed people about different battles;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek has performed extensive volunteer work with local charities, including serving as President of the Board of Hearts and Homes for Youth, a charitable organization for runaway or abandoned children in Montgomery County, Maryland;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek has been an active resident of Knollwood Military Life Plan Community (Knollwood) in Ward 4 since 2001, and is former president of the Knollwood Residents Association;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek advocated for resident's voices to be heard, working to assure that the head of the residents association became a full voting member of the board of directors;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek serves as Chair of Knollwood's External Affairs Committee and has worked with the community to improve the relationship between the residents and their surrounding community;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek helped establish a partnership between Knollwood and Lafayette Elementary School where seniors share their life experience with students and seek to inspire a sense of service within them;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek has worked with District of Columbia officials to ensure transportation options for Knollwood residents;

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek served as Vice Chair of Councilmember Todd's Ward 4 Senior Advisory Committee and one of the policy initiatives she advocated for was to provide tax relief to veterans living in the District; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Mrazek, through her service and advocacy, has left an indelible impact on Knollwood, Ward 4, and the District of Columbia.

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RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Thelma Mrazek Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and congratulates Thelma Mrazek for the valuable contribution she has made as an editor and researcher, and her service to the United States during her federal government career, and civic leadership serving veterans and seniors in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.