

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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1 To recognize and celebrate, Reverend James E. Coates for over 60 years of service as the Senior  
2 Pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Anacostia.

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4 WHEREAS, Reverend James E. Coates was licensed for ministry by Gethsemane Baptist  
5 Church in 1948 and ordained in May 1954;

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates attended Howard University School of Divinity graduating  
7 at the top of his class;

8 WHEREAS, prior to becoming a Pastor, Reverend Coates served as chaplain to  
9 migratory agricultural workers in upstate New York and as Director of Christian Educational  
10 Activities at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church;

11 WHEREAS, at Gethsemane Baptist Church, Reverend Coates Pastored the Junior  
12 Church, assisted the sexton, played the piano, ushered as a junior usher, and sang in and assisted  
13 the Director of Choir No. 2;

14 WHEREAS, in addition to his Pastoral ministry Reverend Coates was a faculty member  
15 at the Washington Baptist Seminary for ten years;

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates served as the executive director for three multi-service  
17 anti-poverty programs in the early sixties and seventies;

18 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates was the leader of the \$5 million Anacostia Community  
19 School Project and staff chaplain/therapist at St. Elizabeth's Hospital;

20 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates served in two elected positions as the President of the first  
21 elected DC Public Schools Board of Education in 1969 and as Ward 8 Representative on the first  
22 elected District of Columbia City Council in 1975;

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates currently serves as a clinical member of the Association of  
24 Clinical Pastoral Education, a Licensed Professional Counselor and is a member of several  
25 boards and commissions;

26 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates is currently leading Bethlehem Baptist Church in a Multi-  
27 Use Development Project, including a new church sanctuary with an adjoining cultural arts and  
28 educational facility; and

29 WHEREAS, Reverend Coates is married to Marcia Hall Coates, a retired Federal  
30 Government Senior Executive Service career employee, with whom he shares the parenting of  
31 four children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

32 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
33 resolution may be cited as the “Reverend James E. Coates Ceremonial Resolution of 2019.”

34 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Reverend James E. Coates for his  
35 community activism, lifelong commitment to service, and faithful leadership.

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