

Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To posthumously recognize the life, career and contributions of Patrick Ellis.

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis was a native Washingtonian who attended District of Columbia’s public schools before attending the Westminster School in Simsbury, Connecticut for high school;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis was a graduate of Howard University and returned to the University in 1971 to join the new WHUR station where he served as program director for the station while hosting the successful Gospel Spirit program created in 1979;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis for four decades hosted the most popular gospel program in this area, appealing to a wide audience of avid listeners inspired by his easy-going and motivational collection of classic and modern gospel music as well as popular and uplifting tunes;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis led Project Food2Feed for 40 years, providing two million meals to the needy in the Washington D.C. area for Thanksgiving and Christmas;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis also helped with the WHUR Helping Hands Radiothon, which began in 2005 to help victims of Hurricane Katrina, and after 15 years, the program has morphed into an effort has raised nearly \$1.5 million to fund the Howard University Alternative Spring Break Program to send over 1200 Howard University students to 20 cities across the country and abroad to deliver more than 150,000 community service hours;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis was also instrumental in the Border Babython, a one-time event to raise money to help Howard University nurses run a facility to take care of babies left at the hospital by drug-addicted mothers;

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WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis lent his efforts to the Give Me Shelter Radiothon, an initiative for which WHUR raised nearly \$800,000 from 2003 to 2008 to help build, expand, renovate and furnish the Family Crisis Center of Prince Georges County, a 25-bed shelter in Prince George’s County for women and children fleeing domestic violence;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis mentored countless communications students throughout his career in broadcasting and philanthropy who have gone on to successful professional and charitable careers;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis richly supported the Washington Metropolitan area during his stellar 40-year career at Howard University’s WHUR station;

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis died July 16, 2020 at a hospital in Annapolis, Maryland of complications of COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Ellis’ life and work stand as an example of servant leadership.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Patrick Ellis Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia proudly celebrates Patrick Ellis, his life and accomplishments on the occasion of his passing.

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