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Councilmember Brooke Pinto



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Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.



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Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



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Councilmember Christina Henderson



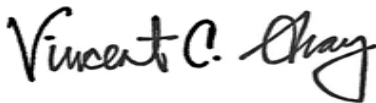
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Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



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Councilmember Anita Bonds



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Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To celebrate and recognize January 2, 2022, as Johnny Lestant Gant, Sr. Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Johnny Lestant Gant, Sr. was born in Washington, DC on January 1, 1949, to Lucille and John Robert Gant;

WHEREAS, in 1968 Johnny L. Gant, Sr. launched a successful boxing career, winning his first bout against Hurricane Hart at the DC Armory with a knockout-punch in Round 4;

WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. worked for the DC Department of Recreation overseeing boxing shows;

40           WHEREAS, in 1978, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. won for successive fights including two  
41 impressive victories over formidable fighters Jose Baquedano and Danny Gonzalez (then rated  
42 No. 4 in the world);

43           WHEREAS, in January 1979, then World Class Professional Welterweight Champion  
44 Boxer, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. gave boxing enthusiasts a thriller by competing against Sugar Ray  
45 Leonard in Landover, Maryland at the filled-to-capacity Capitol Center, owned and operated by  
46 the late Abe Pollin who was instrumental in putting DC boxing on the map and for designating  
47 the Capitol Center as Gant's "home court";

48           WHEREAS, in 1979, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. and Sugar Ray Leonard were both managed by  
49 Angelo Dundee, an internationally recognized giant in boxing circles and dubbed a leading  
50 American boxing trainer and cornerman;

51           WHEREAS, in 1979 No. 2 ranked competitor, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. was prompted to leave  
52 the boxing ring when the undefeated No. 1 ranked competitor, Sugar Ray Leonard, earned the  
53 Regional Mid-Atlantic Title in the first DC area Home Box Office World Championship Boxing  
54 match and was further spurred by his 1980 loss to Roger Leonard;

55           WHEREAS, after a decades long career in the boxing ring, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. collected  
56 sixty-three total bouts under his belt, winning forty-five and ending three in a draw;

57           WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. turned his attention to exploring and pursuing options  
58 beyond boxing. He used earnings from his bout with Sugar Ray Leonard to put himself through  
59 college, studying computer programming and business administration at the University of the  
60 District of Columbia;

61           WHEREAS, upon completing college, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. had a career with a computer  
62 company in Southern California where he worked several years before moving back to

63 Washington, DC and later relocated to Atlanta where he worked for General Electric Computer  
64 Systems Division in Alpharetta, GA;

65 WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr., acting upon his love for boxing, founded the Stone  
66 Mountain Police Athletic League in Atlanta, GA, for youth tutoring and an amateur boxing  
67 program for training young boxers;

68 WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. so loved boxing and his hometown- Washington, DC-  
69 that he set a plan in motion to obtain the necessary funding to establish a boxing program in  
70 Washington, DC;

71 WHEREAS, in 1997, at age 47, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. was encouraged to reenter the  
72 boxing ring to fight Earl Allen, in (Gant vs. Allen). On February 1, 1997, the event was held at  
73 the Richard England Boys and Girls Club, 4103 Benning Road, NE., with proceeds going to  
74 support his goal of developing a non-profit boxing program in DC like the program he  
75 established in Atlanta;

76 WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. established the Atlanta Art of Boxing Center in Atlanta,  
77 GA which became the base of operations for the Johnny Gant Foundation, created with his  
78 daughter, Sirraya Gant, in Washington, DC;

79 WHEREAS, the Johnny Gant Foundation, a non-profit organization, develops sports-  
80 centric programs for Atlanta area children providing them with constructive, focused outlets and  
81 specialized attention and mentorship;

82 WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. coached and trained top professional and amateur  
83 boxers at various skill levels for nearly two decades;

84 WHEREAS, as part of the Amateur Boxing Federation, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. coached the  
85 Region III amateur team. Under his tutelage, the team, which consisted of 10 to 27-year-old

86 boxers, advanced to both the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colorado to compete  
87 for the National Championship, and the National Golden Gloves Championship tournament in  
88 Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

89 WHEREAS, Johnny L. Gant, Sr. is a loving husband to his wife Brenda Gant. He was a  
90 loving and supportive father to his children Sirraya Gant, John L. Gant Jr., Nakkiyah Gant, and  
91 stepson Charles Renfrom, including the youths he trained who affectionately called him coach  
92 and considered him a father figure;

93 WHEREAS, January 2, 2022 is Johnny L. Gant, Sr. Day;

94 WHEREAS, the District recognizes and celebrates Johnny L. Gant Sr.'s outstanding  
95 humanitarianism and contributions to training athletes and the sport of boxing; his lifetime of  
96 accomplishments in sport, education, and business; and a legacy of kind heartedness as a  
97 philanthropist, boxer, and trainer of future Olympians and Professional Boxing Athletes.

98 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
99 resolution be cited as the "Johnny L. Gant, Sr. Posthumous Recognition Ceremonial Resolution  
100 of 2021".

101 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and celebrates Johnny L. Gant, Sr. for his philanthropy,  
102 contributions to boxing, and dedication to training young athletes and designates January 2, 2022  
103 as Johnny L. Gant Sr. Day.

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