



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor John J. DeGioia for his extraordinary 23-year tenure as President of Georgetown University, his significant contributions to higher education in the District of Columbia, and his transition to the role of President Emeritus.

WHEREAS, John J. DeGioia has served as the 48th President of Georgetown University since July 1, 2001, making him the longest-serving president in Georgetown's history and the first lay person to lead a Jesuit institution of higher education in the United States;

WHEREAS, President DeGioia's connection to Georgetown University spans nearly five decades, beginning as an undergraduate student in 1975, graduating with a bachelor's degree in English in 1979, and later earning his Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown in 1995;

WHEREAS, Georgetown University stands as one of the District of Columbia's largest private employers, contributing significantly to the local economy through its research initiatives, operations, capital investments, and the economic activity generated by its student body, faculty, staff, and visitors;

WHEREAS, Georgetown University has served as an anchor institution in the District's educational landscape since 1789, and President DeGioia has strengthened this legacy by

32 expanding the university's footprint through the development of the Capitol Campus, creating
33 new opportunities for civic engagement and economic development in downtown Washington,
34 D.C.;

35 WHEREAS, under President DeGioia's leadership, Georgetown University has
36 strengthened its position as a premier institution of higher learning in the District of Columbia,
37 quintupling the university endowment from \$700 million in 2001 to \$3.6 billion in 2024;

38 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to
39 expanding access to education, growing Georgetown's financial aid budget to \$285 million in
40 2024, with approximately 50% of undergraduate students receiving financial aid;

41 WHEREAS, President DeGioia established the Georgetown Scholars Program in 2004,
42 which has served more than 2,600 first-generation college students and students from low-
43 income backgrounds;

44 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has overseen the establishment of new schools and
45 academic programs, including the McCourt School of Public Policy, the School of Nursing, and
46 the School of Health, enhancing Georgetown's academic offerings and impact;

47 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing
48 racial justice and community healing through the establishment of the Racial Justice Institute and
49 the Center for the Study of Slavery and Its Legacies, fostering crucial dialogue and research on
50 these vital issues;

51 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has been a pioneering force in expanding Georgetown's
52 global impact while maintaining strong local connections, establishing international campuses
53 and programs while simultaneously deepening the university's engagement with District

54 communities through initiatives such as the Georgetown Law Center's clinics serving DC
55 residents;

56 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has been a steadfast advocate for the District of
57 Columbia community, establishing the Martin Luther King Jr. Initiative in 2003 and fostering
58 numerous partnerships between Georgetown University and local organizations;

59 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to creating
60 pathways to success for returning citizens through innovative programs such as the Georgetown
61 Pivot Program, launched in 2018 to provide professional development and workplace training,
62 and the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program, which offers intensive legal training and
63 certification for careers in the legal field;

64 WHEREAS, under President DeGioia's leadership, Georgetown University has expanded
65 its presence in the District through the development of its Capitol Campus, strengthening the
66 university's connection to the city and its ability to serve the community;

67 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has demonstrated exceptional leadership during times of
68 crisis, successfully guiding the university through challenges including the aftermath of
69 September 11th, the 2008 financial crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic;

70 WHEREAS, President DeGioia has shown courage and leadership in addressing
71 historical wrongs, launching the Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation in
72 2015 and implementing meaningful actions to acknowledge and address Georgetown's historical
73 connection to slavery,

74 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
75 resolution may be cited as the “John J. DeGioia Presidential Legacy Recognition Resolution of
76 2024”.

77 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates John J.
78 DeGioia for his transformative leadership of Georgetown University, his dedication to expanding
79 educational opportunities, his commitment to social justice, and his significant contributions to
80 higher education in the District of Columbia, as he transitions to his new role as President
81 Emeritus.

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