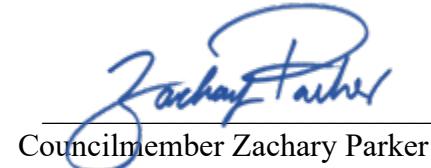


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2 Councilmember Doni Crawford

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6 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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2 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of Nettie Pearl Drayton Hailes for her lifelong service, faith, leadership, and unwavering commitment to civil rights, community uplift, and the people of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Ms. Nettie Pearl Drayton Hailes was born on April 10, 1928, to Laura and Almon Drayton in Thomasville, Georgia, and was raised in a Christian home grounded in faith, service, and resilience;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was part of The Great Migration, relocating with her family from the Jim Crow South to New Brunswick, New Jersey, where she pursued her education while working to support her family, and later lived in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes devoted her life to faith, family, and service, and was a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ, an active church leader across multiple congregations, and a steadfast supporter of ministry and community care;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was married in 1946 to the late Rev. Dr. Edward A. Hailes, Sr., and together they dedicated their lives to ministry, civil rights, and service, including his

34 leadership as Executive Secretary of the District of Columbia Branch of the NAACP and
35 coordination of the 1963 March on Washington;

36 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes marched proudly in the 1963 March on Washington and lived a
37 life rooted in the pursuit of racial justice, gender equity, and democratic participation, inspired by
38 leaders such as Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
39 King, Jr.;

40 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-
41 grandmother, and created a home centered on faith, learning, culture, generosity, and care for
42 others;

43 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was a lifelong activist and community leader who served as a
44 Girl Scout leader, YWCA board member, advisor to young women, educator, entrepreneur, and
45 mentor;

46 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was a distinguished leader within the National Council of Negro
47 Women, including service as the 19th President of the Washington Section from 1997 to 1999,
48 and played a key role in health advocacy, fundraising, and preserving the organization's historic
49 headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue;

50 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was a Legacy Life Member and Historian Emeritus of the
51 Washington Section of the National Council of Negro Women, and received numerous honors
52 recognizing her leadership, historical stewardship, and service to women and families;

53 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes continued her advocacy into her later years as an Ambassador
54 for the American Association of Retired Persons, focusing on protecting seniors from fraud and
55 advancing affordable senior housing in the District of Columbia, including successful advocacy
56 for senior housing in the redevelopment of the Walter Reed site in Northwest Washington;

57 WHEREAS, Ms. Hailes was also a licensed realtor who helped make homeownership
58 possible for many families and remained deeply engaged in civic life, church leadership, and
59 community organizing throughout her life;

60 WHEREAS, Ms. Nettie Pearl Drayton Hailes passed peacefully on January 10, 2026, in
61 Washington, D.C., surrounded by her loving family, leaving behind a profound legacy of faith,
62 courage, service, and love that will continue to inspire generations.

63 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
64 resolution may be cited as the “Nettie Pearl Drayton Hailes Memorial Recognition Resolution of
65 2026”.

66 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and remembers the
67 extraordinary life, leadership, and legacy of Ms. Nettie Pearl Drayton Hailes.

68 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.