

1 _____
2 Councilmember Jack Evans

_____ Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

3
4 _____
5 Councilmember Anita Bonds

_____ Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

6
7
8
9 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

10 _____
11 COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12 _____
13

14 To celebrate the 100th birthday of Vanilla Beane and to recognize her sustained
15 success in running Bene Millinery and Bridal Supplies and the example that she has set
16 for those following in her footsteps as both an entrepreneur and a milliner;

17 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was born in Wilson, North Carolina on September 13,
18 1919;

19 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was married to the late Willie Bean, Sr. and the couple
20 had three children, the late Willie Beane, Jr., Margaret Seymour of Charleston, South
21 Carolina, and Linda Jefferson of Washington, D.C.;

22 WHEREAS, while working at the General Services Administration, Vanilla Beane
23 started a home based, custom made hat business that she operated in the evenings and
24 weekends;

25 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane began working at the Washington Millinery Supply
26 Company in 1955 and upon the owner's retirement, Vanilla Beane was able to purchase
27 the entire stock of millinery supplies and open her own business, Bene Millinery & Bridal
28 Supplies;

29 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane started Bene Millinery & Bridal Supplies in 1979 and
30 continues to oversee and operate the business today, five decades later;

31 WHEREAS, Bene Millinery & Bridal Supplies is most known for their celebrated
32 hats, which are made and designed by Vanilla Beane herself;

33 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane has created hats for movies, charity events, and a guest
34 attending The Royal Ascot and in 2018, a green turban made by Vanilla Beane was
35 selected to be a part of Google's 3-D interactive exhibit curated at the National Museum
36 of African-American History and Culture;

37 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane’s hats have been worn by a wide variety of women,
38 including Maya Angelou, Dorothy Height, and Washington, D.C.’s current Mayor Muriel
39 Bowser, and were also mentioned by United States President Barack Obama at the funeral
40 of Dorothy Height;

41 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane was inducted into the National Association of Fashion
42 and Accessory Designers Hall of Fame in 1975; and

43 WHEREAS, Vanilla Beane continues to inspire others with her dedication to her
44 beautiful work and we are lucky to have an incredible woman in the District of Columbia.

45 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
46 resolution may be cited as the “Vanilla Beane 100th Birthday Ceremonial Recognition
47 Resolution of 2019”.

48 Sec. 2. The Council honors Vanilla Beane on her 100th birthday for an incredible
49 and accomplished life and look forward seeing her continue to inspire others through her
50 work.

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