
Councilmember Phil Mendelson

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To acknowledge the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Dedication of the World War I 16th Street Memorial Trees.

Whereas, More than twenty-six thousand District of Columbia citizens (men and women) either volunteered or were drafted to serve in the military forces deployed to Europe to participate in World War I;

Whereas, Five-hundred and seven lost their lives in this fight for freedom;

Whereas, The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia – the city’s oldest civic organization which was founded in 1865 – convened a joint meeting with their African-American counterparts, The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) to honor the District’s World War I veterans in 1920;

Whereas, The Government of the District of Columbia and four veterans organizations – the American Legion, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Confederate Veterans, and the United Spanish War Veterans joined together to commemorate these fallen heroes on Memorial Day, 1920;

Whereas, Two-point-three miles of Sixteenth Street, NW between Alaska Avenue and Webster Street were designated as a memorial to these fallen heroes;

Whereas, 507 Norway maple saplings were planted, each either affixed with the name of one of the 507 fallen veterans or their name affixed to a small concrete post nearby;

Whereas, Only two of the plaques remain; "John A. Kendall, US Army, World War 1917-1918" and "Leo Joseph, Memorial Tree, World War, 1917-1918, USA"; and

Whereas, Monday, May 31, 2010, the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the dedication of the Sixteenth Street World War I Memorial.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Ninetieth Anniversary of the World War I 16th Street Memorial Trees Recognition Resolution of 2010.”

Sec.2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and acknowledges the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants for its efforts in reminding us of our fallen heroes and calls upon all of its citizens to pause and reflect on the supreme sacrifice made by its sons and daughters who gave their lives not only in World War I, but in all the wars and military actions of the United States.

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

The Resolution was passed by the D.C. Council on Tuesday, May 4, 2010.