

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-83

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 2, 2017

To recognize and congratulate Cornell Tayron Gray for winning 2 speed skating gold medals at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray is a resident of the Kenilworth community in Ward 7, and is currently enrolled as a junior at H. D. Woodson High School in Ward 7;

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray is an active athlete, playing football for a team representing the Kenilworth community, playing baseball as a member of the Ward 7 Baseball Team organized by the Sixth District of the Metropolitan Police Department and Ward 7 families, and competing as a Golden Gloves Boxer representing the Umar Sports & Learning Center operating out of the Kenilworth Recreation Center;

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray has participated in the Special Olympics for 4 years in basketball, soccer, and other sports, and has won multiple medals in volleyball, basketball, and bowling;

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray started speed skating only 2 years ago, not knowing how to skate, but instead of quitting, decided to persevere, recognizing that the harder he worked, the better he would get;

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray represented Special Olympics USA in joining more than 2,600 athletes and 1,000 coaches representing 106 countries, along with 10,000 volunteers and thousands more spectators at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Graz, Schladming-Rohrmoos and Ramsau, Austria, where athletes competed in sports such as alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, speed skating, floor hockey, floorball, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and stick shooting at the biennial flagship event that demonstrates sports excellence and promotes equality, respect, and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities around the world, transcending the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture, and religion;

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WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray is the only District of Columbia athlete to travel to the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which was his first trip outside of the United States;

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray, relying on a belief in himself and in his abilities, won a gold medal on March 22, 2017 in the 222-meter Division 14 speed skating race with a time of 35.848 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Cornell Tayron Gray also won a gold medal on March 24, 2017 in the 333-meter Division 16 speed skating race with a time of 51.622 seconds.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Cornell Tayron Gray Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia congratulates Cornell Tayron Gray for his perseverance and achievement in representing the United States at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Graz, Schladming-Rohrmoos and Ramsau, Austria, where he won 2 gold medals in speed skating, and also congratulates his teachers, coaches, and other members of his support network who have helped him to successfully compete as an international athlete.

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