



Resolution Honoring the Life of Bernice E. Bowman

WHEREAS, Bernice E. Bowman of West Haven, Connecticut was born in February 9, 1924, and raised by her Aunt Della, a strong independent woman, who taught her to “stand up for what she believed in, and if she didn’t, then she couldn’t complain”, and

WHEREAS, she attended Hillhouse High School in New Haven, CT, Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, Wilson School of Technology in Boston, MA, and Southern Connecticut State University, and

WHEREAS, she worked tirelessly throughout her life for a variety of organizations including

- Advisory Board, South Central Community College, now Gateway Community College
- Union Representative for non-salaried workers in West Haven
- State Central Committee Women from West Haven, Connecticut
- Co-founder of the West Haven Black Coalition
- Advisory Board of the West Haven Health Center
- Six year member of the West Haven City Council
- National Council of Negro Women
- African American Women’s Agenda
- West Haven Black Heritage Committee
- West Haven Historical Society

and served for many years, holding many, many offices including president, vice president, director, chairperson of such organizations, and

WHEREAS, she was elected by the NFDW to serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee, President of the West Haven Federation of Democratic Women, President of the Sojourner Network of Democratic Women, longtime member of the NFDW, and the first African-American President of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women, and

WHEREAS, Bernice Bowman faithfully attended NFDW conventions for over 30 years in places such as New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, Las Vegas, Puerto Rico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. and was a

proud member of the Connecticut delegation to these conventions, and in 1998, she received the NFDW Outstanding Member of the Year Award, and

WHEREAS, Bernice was a true Democrat who was fortunate to have met Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, had long time associations with senators and congresspersons from Hillary Clinton to Chris Dodd to Joe Lieberman, dedicated her life to advancing people of color to appointments in and around politics, and was rewarded for her efforts by witnessing the election of President Barack H. Obama, the nation's first African-American President.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Federation of Democratic Women salutes Bernice E. Bowman, who was an active Federation supporter, a true community activist who served her community, her state, and her nation well, and "always stood up for what she believed in".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women salutes the life of Bernice E. Bowman, and commends her as a Federation sister for her untiring efforts toward equity for women, parity for all, and equal justice for families and children, ultimately doing her part to make the world a better place for future generations and extends its condolences to her family on her passing on February 11, 2011.

Introduced by the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women