



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

William Atmore Byrd, Sr. Street Co-Naming Resolution

Resolution: To support the Co-Naming at the intersection of West 131st Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard to William Atmore Byrd, Sr. Place.

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr. was a distinguished member of the Central Harlem community, who worked tirelessly during his lifetime to improve the lives of Harlem residents and devoted his life to serving his neighborhood;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr. was the founder and former president of the 131st Street Block Association and in that role fought to make Harlem a better place to live for his neighbors. He did this by establishing a myriad of extra-curricular activities for the children around 131st Street, including the Cadets Program, the Byrd's Classics Basketball Team, the Vikings Football Team, the Harlem Stomp Troopers, the Youth Tenant Patrol, and the Devil's Baseball Team;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr. was a strong activist and advocate for African-American rights, and initiated a petition, alongside Howard Bennett and Julian Bond, resulting in over two million signatures and which would eventually lead the United States Congress to declare Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a federal holiday;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr. was looked upon as an inspiration by the residents of the Harlem community through his work with and guidance to young adults, and helped rid the neighborhood of drug usage. He started a summer youth employment program as well as a breakfast and lunch program for children and adolescents. He also helped in the formation of the Saint Nicholas Houses Tenant Patrol, and supported the Stuyvesant Association of the Deaf for many years;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr., was born to Emma Lanier and Addison A. Byrd in Hampton, Virginia, on January 19, 1927;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd Sr. first served his country by joining the U.S. Army on May 15, 1943 as a private during World War II; he then served the Central Harlem through his community activism as expressed through the many young lives he positively influenced and redirected through his many educational, sports, social and nutritional programs;

WHEREAS: William Atmore Byrd, Sr., passed away on Sunday, December 17, 2000, with a homegoing celebration of his life held on December 26, 2000 at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Central Harlem, New York;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 wishes to remember William Atmore Byrd, Sr. by formally requesting New York City Council and the Mayor of New York City to enact legislation to Co-Name the intersection of West 131st Street

and Frederick Douglass Boulevard To William Atmore Byrd, Sr. Place.

The Historic Preservation and Transportation Committee voted on this item May 9th 2017 with a vote of 6 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.