

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250497)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and Honoring the Life and Legacy of Congressman Dwight Evans on the Occasion of His 71st Birthday and Declaring May 16, 2025, as "Dwight Evans Day" in the City of Philadelphia.

Whereas, Dwight Evans was born on May 16, 1954, in the City of Philadelphia and raised in the Germantown and West Oak Lane neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Dwight Evans is a proud graduate of Philadelphia's public schools, having attended Germantown High School and later earning degrees from the Community College of Philadelphia and La Salle University; and

Whereas, Dwight began his career in public service as a teacher in Philadelphia's public school system and as a community activist with the Urban League, dedicating himself to improving educational outcomes, reducing crime, and revitalizing neighborhoods; and

Whereas, In 1980, at the age of 26, Dwight Evans was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he served for over three decades, including 20 years as the first African American Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, helping to direct state resources toward education, public safety, job training and economic development; and

Whereas, Congressman Evans has championed community-led development in Northwest Philadelphia through the creation of the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation (OARC), which helped transform Ogontz Avenue and West Oak Lane into a thriving economic and cultural hub; and

Whereas, He was instrumental in the founding of the West Oak Lane Charter School and the launch of the West Oak Lane Jazz & Arts Festival — both of which represent his commitment to empowering youth and enriching the community through education and the arts; and

Whereas, Since 2016, Dwight Evans has served in the United States House of Representatives, where he continues to advocate for working families, education reform, equitable development,

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 250497 continued

and support for small and Black-owned businesses as a member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee; and

Whereas, Congressman Evans has dedicated nearly five decades of his life to public service, leaving an enduring impact on the City of Philadelphia and serving as a mentor and role model for generations of civic leaders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, declares May 16, 2025, as “Dwight Evans Day” in the City of Philadelphia in celebration of his 71st birthday and in recognition of his legacy of leadership, compassion, and transformational impact on our City, state, and nation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Congressman Dwight Evans as a sincere expression of the admiration, gratitude, and respect of this legislative body for his lifetime of service, transformative leadership, and unwavering dedication to the people of Philadelphia.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 250497 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the eighth day of May, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Phillips

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers, Phillips, Ahmad, Bass, Brooks, Driscoll, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Landau, Lozada, O'Rourke, Thomas and Young