A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Adolf Cluss for his significant role in the planning and development of the District as the architect of at least 80 buildings, including the Sumner and Franklin Schools, the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building, the 9th Street Masonic Temple, Eastern Market, and the Calvary Baptist Church, on the occasion of the Adolf Cluss Exhibition Project.

WHEREAS, during the 1860’s to 1890’s, German-born Adolf Cluss was one of the most influential architects and engineers in Washington, DC and responsible for over 70 major public and private buildings in Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, and Alexandria, VA;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss played a key role in shaping a renewed Washington, DC following the trauma of the Civil War, into a modern national capital and urban center by designing beautiful school buildings for the District’s students by fostering the development of the capital’s infrastructure and beautification in his role as the city’s engineer and a Board of Public Works member, and by publication of innovative ideas in national media;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss was born into a middle class family of master stonemasons, engineers and entrepreneurs in Heilbronn, Germany in 1825, was a colleague and correspondent of Karl Marx, and a participant in the unsuccessful German revolution of 1848;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss viewed architecture and city planning as a means to establishing and strengthening the emerging republic which the United States was in his day;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss chose to design buildings that contributed to the community, such as schools, churches, and hospitals; consequently, between 1864 and 1889 in Washington, DC, Adolf Cluss was the architect of 8 churches, 13 commercial buildings, 9 government buildings, 2 hospitals, 3 markets, 4 military structures, 3 museums, 10 public schools, 5 private schools and colleges or universities, and 18 residential properties;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss designed four of the first five buildings on the National Mall, although only one of those is still standing, as well as designed the city’s first apartment house, the Portland Flats;
WHEREAS, before the use of marble became the norm in the District’s public construction, Adolf Cluss favored using red brick;
WHEREAS, among the 70-plus Cluss-designed structures in the area are eight still standing, including Sumner and Franklin schools, the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building, the 9th Street Masonic Temple, Eastern Market, and Calvary Baptist Church;
WHEREAS, as city engineer, Adolf Cluss developed the plan that narrowed Washington’s unusually wide streets and encouraged property owners to plant gardens on the leftover street right-of-way in front of their homes;
WHEREAS, Adolf Cluss proposed the regulation allowing the construction of houses with bays, porticos, and towers extending beyond the front property lines, thereby eliminating the bland, flat facades of other 19th Century row houses;
WHEREAS, in 1890, Adolf Cluss was appointed Inspector of Public Buildings for the United States government, thus capping a long career as an architect for public buildings and as a public servant;
WHEREAS, in honor of Adolf Cluss’ long and illustrious career, a transatlantic exhibition called “Adolf Cluss From Germany to America: Shaping a Capital City Worthy of a Republic” will be held both in Heilbronn, Germany and in the District at the Charles Sumner School Museum, from September 2005 to February 2006; and
WHEREAS, there will be an event held at Eastern Market to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Adolf Cluss’ death on July 24, 2005.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Adolf Cluss Recognition Resolution of 2005”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the historic significance of the work of Adolf Cluss in the development of the District and recognizes the month of July 2005 as “Adolf Cluss Appreciation Month” in the District of Columbia.

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