

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0646
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Holton, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Harris, Curran, Spector, Conaway, Middleton, Young, Mitchell, Clarke, Kraft, Welch, Crider, Reisinger
Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2007

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Murray A. Schmoke, Sr. – In Remembrance**

3 FOR the purpose of honoring the life of Murray A. Schmoke, Sr., retired chemist, learned
4 scholar, gifted musician, loving friend, dedicated family patriarch, and father of former
5 Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke; and providing for a special effective date.

6 **Recitals**

7 On April 14, 2007, the many family, friends, loved ones, and admirers of Murray Schmoke
8 attended a wake and memorial service for him at the Douglas Memorial Church where he
9 worshiped for more than 5 decades and served as president of the choir that was anchored by
10 his booming bass voice.

11 Mr. Schmoke, who passed away at the age of 79, was born in Raleigh, North Carolina,
12 earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, and moved to Baltimore, in
13 1949, to take a job as a chemical research scientist at Edgewood Arsenal, later transferring to
14 Aberdeen Proving Ground, where he retired 15 years ago.

15 An avid reader, the senior Schmoke was known for his scholarly pursuits. He also loved
16 sports and was a season ticket holder for Baltimore Colts games from the 1950's, rarely
17 missing a game, and became a loyal fan of the Ravens, as well. But, as his son, the former
18 Mayor of Baltimore, recalled: "He loved singing more than anything else."

19 Throughout his life, Murray actively pursued his love of music, starting from the day his
20 mother "forced" him to join the young people's choir in his hometown church in Raleigh,
21 through his membership in the Morehouse College Glee Club, his participation in the famed
22 Great Hymns Choir, and direction of the Douglas Memorial Community Church Choir.

23 In loving remembrance of his late musical mentor, Mr. Schmoke quoted the words of a
24 favorite hymn that his friend had recited just before he passed away that serve as a fitting
25 tribute to Murray as well:

26 *"I'll praise my Maker while I've breath and when my voice is lost in death, praise*
27 *shall employ my nobler power. My days of praise will ne'er be passed while life*
28 *and thought of being last or immortality endures."*

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 07-0646

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
2 this Body hereby honors the life of Murray A. Schmoke, Sr., retired chemist, learned scholar,
3 gifted musician, loving friend, dedicated family patriarch, and father of former Mayor Kurt L.
4 Schmoke; and provides for a special effective date.

5 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the
6 Mayor, Mrs. Murray A. Schmoke, the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke and family, and the Mayor's
7 Legislative Liaison to he City Council.

8 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on the date it
9 is enacted.