



*The District of Columbia Board of Education*  
**Resolution**  
*The Members of The Board of Education*  
*Present The Following Resolution*

***A RESOLUTION TO HONOR OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO PERISHED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001***

*Whereas*, on September 11, 2001, three of our school children and their teachers perished as the result of terrorist acts as they were embarking on an educational field trip sponsored by the National Geographic Society, when their airplane was used as a bomb against the Pentagon; and

*Whereas*, acts of terrorism, racism, intolerance and hatred are born of ignorance; and

*Whereas*, the D.C. Board of Education is determined that the memory of these bright children and devoted teachers be not only one of tragedy and sorrow, but also one that calls upon us to treat everyone with concern and respect.

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*** The D.C. Board of Education designates September 11<sup>th</sup> as a Day of Remembrance for our students Bernard Brown, Rodney Dickens and Asia Cottom, and our teachers Hilda Taylor, James Debeuneure and Sarah Clark and the National Geographic staff members who also perished that day, Ann Judge and Joe Ferguson.

***THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:*** All our schools will observe this day each year by teaching from a curriculum designed to address issues related to eliminating racism, intolerance and hatred and promoting peace.

*This Resolution shall take effect immediately.  
Resolution Number; 14-02  
Board Meeting Date: 09/19/01*

## **Objectives for the Day of Remembrance**

The following objectives are based on the Board of Education's resolution establishing an annual September 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance.

### **To commemorate September 11, 2001 – the lives lost and lessons learned.**

The Day of Remembrance is dedicated to the memory of our three students and three teachers who were killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. It is a day to remember these personal losses to our DCPS family. This will be a day to reflect on lessons learned and the changes each of us has experienced in our lives and communities.

### **To promote peace through age-appropriate standards-based curricula.**

In accordance with the Board resolution, the major focus of the Day of Remembrance is to teach about peace and issues related to eliminating racism, intolerance and hatred through standards-based curricula. Classroom instruction around these themes should be aligned to DCPS standards for each grade level and each content area. The intent is not to provide students with a comprehensive peace education or conflict resolution training on this one day, but to use the anniversary as a time to touch on the important themes mentioned above.

### **To promote a global perspective.**

The events of September 11, 2001 made it clear to all that the United States is a part of the larger world community. Our destinies as Americans are interconnected with those of others around the world. As educators, it is our responsibility to help students understand other cultures' experiences, and perspectives, and to prepare students for their roles as future world citizens and leaders. In planning Day of Remembrance activities, focus not only on promoting peace and tolerance in our own schools and local communities, but in the world at large.

### **To empower students to create a better world.**

One of the most frightening aspects of September 11<sup>th</sup> was the sense of powerlessness and vulnerability many of us felt after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As we plan our activities for this September 11<sup>th</sup>, we wish to send the message that our students – at all grade levels – have the ability and responsibility to change the world for the better (in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, city, country, and the earth).

### **To build school community at the start of the school year.**

The Day of Remembrance should help set the stage for creating caring learning communities in our schools. This will be a day when students and teachers can share personal feelings and get to know one another. For our system's demographically diverse schools, in particular, it will be a time to talk about the importance of unity in diversity. The benefits of involving students, teachers, and parents in the planning and execution of the Day of Remembrance at the beginning of the school year can carry forward into other activities later in the school year.

**To continue the Day of Remembrance as an annual DCPS event.**

As memories of the specific events of 2001 fade, and as students move on to other schools, we want to continue this tradition in DC Public Schools of a day of peace and community at the beginning of each school year. With this long-term objective in mind, we will be looking for models we can learn from and share for future Days of Remembrance. Thus, documentation of the events of this day is extremely important in fulfilling this objective.