

Resolution 2024-38

Resolution of Condolence for Mr. Russell Paul “Russ” Smith

WHEREAS, The City of New Castle offers respectful condolences to the family and friends and directs this resolution to honor Mr. Russell Paul “Russ” Smith, whose extraordinary life and legacy have left an indelible mark on our community and our state.

WHEREAS, A proud native of New Castle, Mr. Smith was born on April 10, 1949, the son of Russell N. and Barbara Smith. He graduated from William Penn High School and earned a degree in American History from the University of Delaware.

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith devoted forty-two years to the National Park Service, serving in seventy National Park units nationwide. His dedication culminated in his return to Delaware in 2013, where he led the transformation of the First State National Monument into the First State National Historical Park under President Obama’s authorization. His leadership, passion for history, and commitment to public service earned him numerous accolades throughout his career.

WHEREAS, Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Smith was a man of great personal integrity, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his family, including his beloved wife of fifty-three years, Jackie, and his sons, Nathan and David. His involvement in community service, as a board member of the New Castle Historical Society, the New Castle Community Partnership, and Preservation Delaware, as well as a council member for the City of New Castle, left an indelible mark on our community. Mr. Smith’s legacy will live on through our city signage, branding, city flag, and numerous wayside exhibits.

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith’s remarkable life touched and enriched the lives of many. His absence, a void that cannot be filled, will be deeply felt by all who knew, loved, and admired him. We join his family and friends in celebrating a well-lived life and extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Jackie, sons Nathan and David, sister Kathleen, and their extended families as they remember him with pride and affection. His absence leaves a profound and irreplaceable void in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The City of New Castle adopts this honorary resolution to recognize Russell Paul Smith and his legacy of dedication to history, service to the community, and family. May his memory continue to inspire and uplift those he leaves behind.

Suzanne Souder, City Council President

Joseph F. Day, III, Councilperson

Nermin Zubaca, Councilperson

Andrew Zeltt, Councilperson

Brian Mattaway, Councilperson

Attest:

Courtaney Taylor, City Clerk