

Proclamation



BAYARD RUSTIN DAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania in March of 1912, and following decades of deep commitment to intentional and nonviolent protest, he became a hero of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin's legacy of civil rights activism, persistence, and leadership is important to our city and nations history, and his story must be not only shared, but also honored and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was influenced by his moral upbringing and by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and dedicated his life to non-violence, equality and organizing in the name of collective advancement; leading and supporting movements like the Montgomery Boycott, and the earliest version of the Freedom Rides; and

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was recruited by civil rights activist A. Phillip Randolph in 1963, with the intention of organizing a march in commemoration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, but in response to national outcry following police violence in Birmingham, the focus of the march shifted and the March on Washington was in motion; and

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin inspired the release of Netflix's biopic "RUSTIN" set to premiere in November of this year, as well as the first installation of "March On", the Trust for the National Mall's new audio walking tour and podcast series titled "March On: RUSTIN"; honoring his life by amplifying his powerful and impactful role as the architect behind the largest peaceful demonstration of the civil rights era; and

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was successful in his charge to unite civil rights leaders while planning for opposition from segregationists, as well as plan for the logistics of the entire march, and thanks to his courage and passion, the largest demonstration for freedom in American history was made possible:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proudly proclaim Friday, November 10, 2023 as "**BAYARD RUSTIN DAY**" in Washington, DC and encourage all Washingtonians to join me in celebrating the incredible work, life and legacy of Bayard Rustin!

A handwritten signature of Muriel Bowser in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

