



CITY COUNCIL

**Darryl Moore**  
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 13, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Tom Bates  
Councilmember Darryl Moore  
Councilmember Max Anderson  
Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Recognizing May 19th as “Wayne Dismuke Day”

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution commemorating May 19th as “WAYNE DISMUKE DAY” in remembrance of the incredible life spirit of Captain Wayne S. Dismuke.

BACKGROUND:

Wayne S. Dismuke was born October 17, 1941, in El Dorado, Arkansas through the union of Horace K. and Doris J. Dismuke. Wayne was the first child of Horace and Doris. He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1959. After High School, Wayne joined the Naval branch of the Armed Forces and served in the Submarine Division, until he was honorably discharged in 1964.

Wayne was hired in the Berkeley Fire Department on September 11, 1967, and was the top candidate in his recruit class. He promoted through the ranks of Apparatus Operator, Fire Lieutenant and Fire Captain. In November of 1985, Captain Dismuke became the first African American Fire Training Director of the Berkeley Fire Department. As the Director of Training, he formed many of the current leaders in the Berkeley Fire Department. He was the initial incident commander in the City of Berkeley, in the 1991 Berkeley/Oakland Hills fire.

As President of the Berkeley Black Firefighters Association, Wayne was dedicated and committed to improving diversity in the fire service and was a leading voice for this cause, organizing demonstrations, and appealing to Fire and City officials to increase employment opportunities in the fire service for African Americans, women and other minorities. As a visionary, he advocated for a youth training program and in 2002, the Berkeley Youth Academy was formed, bringing together young people of all ethnicities and genders.

Captain Dismuke was the first recipient of the Berkeley Black Firefighters community service award, recognizing his service to the community and naming the award in his behalf, the “Wayne S. Dismuke Community Service Award”. The originator of the Berkeley Black Firefighters slogan, “Serving the Community and Not Ourselves”, spoke volumes to his character, and his 36 years of selfless giving and dedication to the Berkeley community.

The Family requests that any donations or gifts be given to the City of Berkeley’s, “Rebuilding Together”, formerly known as “Christmas In April”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Mayor Tom Bates                                 | (510) 981-7100 |
| Councilmember Darryl Moore, District Two        | (510) 981-7120 |
| Councilmember Max Anderson, District Three      | (510) 981-7130 |
| Councilmember Kriss Worthington, District Seven | (510) 981-7170 |

## **COMMEMORATING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE SPIRIT OF CAPTAIN WAYNE S. DISMUKE**

**WHEREAS,** Wayne S. Dismuke was born October 17, 1941, in El Dorado, Arkansas, the first child of Horace K. and Doris J. Dismuke; and

**WHEREAS,** after his graduation from Berkeley High School in 1959, Wayne joined the Naval branch of the Armed Forces and served in the Submarine Division until he was honorably discharged in 1964; and

**WHEREAS,** Wayne graduated the Fire Training Academy as the top candidate in his recruit class and was hired in the Berkeley Fire Department on September 11, 1967. He served the Berkeley Fire Department with unmatched dedication and vigor and quickly promoted through the ranks of Apparatus Operator and Fire Lieutenant, finally retiring as Fire Captain; and

**WHEREAS,** in November of 1985, Captain Dismuke became the first African American Fire Training Director of the Berkeley Fire Department, forming many of the current leaders in the Berkeley Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1991 he demonstrated incredible heroism and what it truly means to be a Berkeley Firefighter, being the initial incident commander for the City of Berkeley in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills fire; and

**WHEREAS,** Wayne is an example of what it means to be a Berkeley Firefighter. He served as a true visionary, organizing demonstrations and appealing to Fire and City officials to increase employment opportunities in the fire service for African Americans, women and other minorities as the President of the Berkeley Black Firefighters Association; and

**WHEREAS,** Wayne went beyond breaking racial barriers by advocating for a youth training program and in 2002 the Berkeley Youth Academy was formed, bringing together young people of all ethnicities and genders; and

**WHEREAS,** Captain Dismuke was very involved with the Berkeley Black Firefighters, becoming the first recipient of their community service award, which recognized his service to the community by naming the award in his behalf, the "Wayne S. Dismuke Community Service Award." Wayne was the genesis of the Berkeley Black Firefighters slogan, "Serving the Community and Not Ourselves," typifying his character and his entire career of selfless giving to the Berkeley community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Tom Bates,** Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim May 19th as

### **WAYNE DISMUKE DAY**

in recognition of the incredible life spirit of Captain Wayne Dismuke, his 36 years of devoted and noble service to the City of Berkeley as a firefighter and his life's dedication to serving the people of Berkeley.