

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

*Testimonial Resolution*

**Dr. Charles Norman Inniss  
IN MEMORIAM**

**WHEREAS**, Charles Norman Inniss was born to Marian Garner, a registered nurse at Harlem Hospital and Robert Norman Inniss, a servicemember of the U.S. Marine Corps on January 16, 1937 in New York City, New York. When middle and high school counselors tried to steer Charles onto the general curriculum track, his mother Marian stepped in and made sure that he was enrolled in college prep. Charles attended and graduated from Hunter College New York, New York with honors; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Charles decided medicine was his calling and spent the next four years studying at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduation in 1962, he headed to Detroit for an Internship at Detroit Receiving Hospital. It was at a Detroit party where he would be introduced to his future wife Marie Scruggs. The two were married for 28 years; **and**

**WHEREAS**, After completing his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan, in 1965, he received his commission as a lieutenant in the U.S Navy where he would serve for two years as the base pediatrician at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington. In addition to his naval duties, he enjoyed the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, experienced skiing in the mountains, salmon fishing, and flight in a jet fighter. In 1967, the couple moved to Ann Arbor so that Charles, could pursue a postdoctoral program in Pharmacology. His children, Charles Todd and Victoria Catherine were born in 1968 and 1969 respectively. The family made the decision in 1970 to return to Detroit to raise the children and open his private practice of pediatrics. His practice thrived as his reputation for a standard of excellent care, compassionate and as an unyielding advocate for his patients grew. Dr. Inniss saw hundreds of children at his West Outer Drive office and his practice was a kaleidoscope of families from across Metro Detroit. In addition to his private practice, he also served as Director of Pediatrics for the Wellness Plan 1970 - 1974; clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine until 1999. He also served as a Medical Director at Mercy Hospital from 1991 to 1993; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Throughout the 80's and 90's Dr. Inniss appeared weekly on WDIV local 4 News and later WXYZ TV Channel 7, speaking on child health and welfare issues. As the private practice of medicine changed, in the late 1990's and after 25 years, he decided to close his private office in 2004. He found a new career and spent another 20 plus years providing medical care to the youth at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility. Additionally, Dr. Inniss served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Detroit Medical Society Physician Services Group 1980 to 1989; Community Physicians Healthcare Network 1997 to 2001; Michigan State Medical Society Judiciary Commission; an advisor to the Detroit Public Schools; appointed to Mayor Coleman Young's "Healthy Start Consortium", and in 1993, he was Chairman of Mayor Dennis Archer's "Transition Team on Health". Dr. Charles Inniss was also a proud man of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; **and**

# Testimonial Resolution

**WHEREAS**, In his later years, he enjoyed being a doting grandfather to Xavier, Soren, and Payton, who fondly called him "Paka". He was known for swooping up his grandchildren for a day of laughter, ice cream and fun. They would spend countless days at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, the movies and just hanging with Paka. The trio would return home sticky faced and all smiles; and

**WHEREAS**, On October 28, 2022, Dr. Charles Inniss was called to be with the Lord.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2023, the Office of Council President Pro-Tempore James Tate and the entire Detroit City Council hereby honors the iconic, Dr. Charles Inniss, whose thorough pursuit of excellence in patient care shall stand as the premium standard for all pursuing a career in medicine. Thank you for providing trustworthy, quality healthcare services that touched the lives of so many within the City of Detroit and beyond. You will be deeply missed, but your legacy will be remembered and honored far beyond a date that can be imagined.

*Maura Sheffield*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*James Tate*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

*Colon A. G. III*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Manny Watkins*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Angela Whitfield Callaway*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Scott B...*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Ratisha Johnson*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Debra...*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Andre...*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

February 14, 2023  
DATE