Exactly two hundred years ago, on September 26, 1817, 16 physicians joined forces to protect the public health and distinguish the profession of medicine and its critical role in the betterment of the public well-being. Today marks the 200th anniversary of the founding meeting of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the twelfth oldest medical society in the nation, at Tennison's Tavern, located where the Willard Hotel now stands. In honor of this special day, the Mayor of the District of Columbia Muriel Bowser issued a Proclamation congratulating the Medical Society on its 200th anniversary and "for its tireless contributions that have helped to enhance the quality of life of others." (Read the Mayor's Proclamation)

The Medical Society was born of a need to protect patients from charlatan healers who were plying unproven, sometimes dangerous “remedies” on an unsuspecting public, to fight severe epidemics that threatened the livelihood of the District, and to champion the qualifications of physicians and their commitment to their patients. That original mission has endured and remains true of the Medical Society and its physician leadership to this day.

On this special anniversary, the Medical Society thanks its 2,500+ member physician community. MSDC applauds you for your commitment to your patients and the profession of medicine and we look forward to another 200 years of working together towards a healthier future for our Nation's Capital.
Congratulations

Medical Society of the District of Columbia
200th Anniversary

September 26, 2017

WHEREAS, today, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia is the twelfth oldest medical society in the nation and is celebrating its 200th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia was founded by sixteen physicians and became the first medical society chartered by an Act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia continues to play a vital role in protecting the integrity of the physician-patient relationship and advocates on behalf of more than 10,000 doctors of medicine and osteopathy licensed in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Medical Society leaders have volunteered their time, talent and energy to support numerous boards and commissions, including the Mayor's Commission on HIV/AIDS, the DC Health Information Exchange Policy Board, the DC State Health Planning and Development Agency, as well as local healthcare, religious, civic and community organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby congratulate the Medical Society of the District of Columbia for its tireless contributions that have helped to enhance the quality of life of others.

Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC