



Office of the Chicago City
Clerk



R2012-427

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 4/18/2012

Sponsor(s): Burke, Edward M. (14)

Type: Resolution

Title: United States Military Academy in West Point urged to erect monument commorating Ensign George Ronan first West Point Graduate to be killed in the line of duty

Committee(s) Assignment:

Resolution

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Dearborn on August 15, 2012; and

WHEREAS, George Ronan was a cadet at West Point Military Academy from June 1908 until his graduation in March 1811; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from West Point, he was promoted to Ensign, 1st Infantry in the Army; and

WHEREAS, Ronan was described by his peers as a young man of “more than usual spirit and breadth of vision”; and

WHEREAS, due to increased hostility from the Potawatomi Indians, a procession of soldiers, women, and children abandoned Fort Dearborn for the safety of Fort Wayne, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, about two miles south of Fort Dearborn at what is now 18th Street and Prairie Avenue, the procession was ambushed by nearly 500 Potawatomi warriors; and

WHEREAS, out of 148 people in the procession, over half tragically perished in battle that day, including Captain William Wells; and

WHEREAS, the adversaries paid their sincerest tribute of respect to Wells’ bravery by cutting out his heart and eating it, thinking thus to imbibe the qualities of its owner in life; and

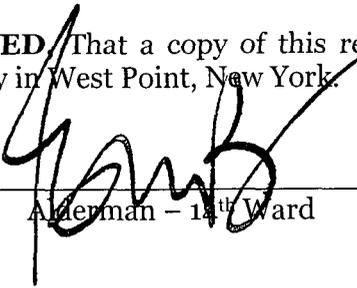
WHEREAS, Ensign George Ronan was fatally wounded, yet still fought on to protect others until his untimely death, becoming the first West Point graduate to be killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, survivors of the battle referred to Ronan as a “hero”; and

WHEREAS, Ronan Park, part of the Chicago Park District, located at 3000 Argyle Street, honors Ensign George Ronan; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor, and Members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this eighteenth day of April 2012, do hereby urge that a suitable monument be erected in the vicinity of the battle on the shore of the lake where Ensign George Ronan was interred to commemorate America’s first West Point graduate to die in the line of duty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be presented to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.


Alderman - 1st Ward