



City of Chicago



R2022-329

Office of the City Clerk Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 4/27/2022
Sponsor(s): Tunney (44)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Steven Roy Strauss
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Steven Roy Strauss, age 76, passed unexpectedly on January 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this sad occasion by Alderman Thomas Tunney of the 44th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Strauss was born May 16, 1945 to Nate and Janet Strauss. The Strauss family, Steven and his two sisters, grew up in the Peterson Park neighborhood and he remained lifelong Chicagoan; and

WHEREAS, Steve started in the business early with his father who owned Symphony Liquors, a "shot and a beer" and package store, on the 4900 block of Chicago Avenue. He loved going to work with his Dad - so that much he made it his own life's work; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 27, Strauss opened his first establishment in the Lakeview neighborhood with the Double Inn on Sheridan Road under the CTA tracks near Irving Park Road. It was here that he began his journey of welcoming, entertaining, and conducting business in the area as a tavern owner; and

WHEREAS, Strauss became a pioneer of inclusivity and acceptance for what would ultimately become the LGBTQ community when he opened another Lakeview staple with one of the first premiere gay/alternative lifestyle bars/clubs in Cheeks, located on Clark just south of Diversey. He and the establishment were at the forefront of laying the groundwork for what would ultimately be known today as Boystown; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Strauss opened Sluggers World Class Sports Bar & Grill, located at 3540 N. Clark Street, in what used to be an auto body garage, one of a handful of bars in the area at the time. Under his leadership, Sluggers became a Clark Street institution known for batting cages, arcade games and dueling pianos; and

WHEREAS, Steve went on to open a Sluggers in Vernon Hills, Orland Park, and across from Coors Field in Denver, Colorado. At the end of the day though, his heart and soul were always at the corner of Clark & Eddy where his passion and love for hard work and going to work every day were a call back to his time as a child delivering beer for his father; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by Rickie, his adored wife of 49 years, by sons Zachary (Jodi), Ari and David Strauss, and grandchildren Avery and Ziggy; and

WHEREAS, Steve Strauss was a leader in Lakeview's bar and hospitality scene for fifty years - from liquor stores to dive bars, gay bars to sports bars. Work ethic, taking care of family and friends, and bringing people together from all walks of life were his passions along with showing his sons how to run a business, and be great husbands and fathers; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 27th day of April, 2022, do hereby honor the life of Steven Strauss and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Steven Strauss as a symbol of our esteem and sympathy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Tunney", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas M. Tunney
Alderman, 44th Ward