



City of Chicago



R2015-15

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 1/21/2015

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Pope (10)
Burke (14)

Type: Resolution

Title: Declaration of January 21, 2015, as "Ralph H. Burlingham Day" in Chicago

Committee(s) Assignment:

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

January 21, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Burke and Pope, a congratulatory resolution concerning World War II veteran Ralph Burlingham.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor



Handwritten signature or text, possibly reading "James L. ..."

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Ralph H. Burlingham, a decorated military veteran of World War II, led the members of the Chicago City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance on Wednesday, January 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burlingham bravely served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945 and fought in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burlingham was a member of the legendary "Carlson's Raiders," and participated in combat landings at Bougainville, Guam and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, During the Battle for Horseshoe Hill on Okinawa on May 21, 1945, Mr. Burlingham was struck and severely injured by mortar fire; and

WHEREAS, While recovering from his wounds in Guam over the next thirteen months, Ralph H. Burlingham received a Purple Heart from Admiral Chester Nimitz himself; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burlingham's other awards and medals include two Navy Unit Citations and a Presidential Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, Following the war, Mr. Burlingham became an ordained minister and served as a Pastor in Wisconsin and Illinois before moving his family to Chicago's Brainerd neighborhood to pursue a career in social work; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, less than a year after earning his Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University, Mr. Burlingham was named Executive Director of Ada S. McKinley Community Services, a social agency dedicated to providing support to residents of the South Side of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burlingham ably led the organization for three decades, delivering critically needed services to the disabled and those struggling with poverty; and

WHEREAS, During his esteemed tenure, Mr. Burlingham brought compassion and dignity to the lives of countless people, and expanded the organization by hiring a professional staff that mirrored the ethnic composition of the communities that the agency served; and

WHEREAS, By the time Mr. Burlingham retired in 1995, Ada S. McKinley Community Services had grown to include 25 centers, a staff of 450 persons, and an annual budget of 30 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his remarkable vision and leadership, Mr. Burlingham received both the Ada S. McKinley Community Services Lifetime Achievement Award and the PUSH Excel/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award; and

WHEREAS, Ralph H. Burlingham is truly an example of what journalist Tom Brokaw famously and aptly dubbed "The Greatest Generation;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burlingham is exceedingly worthy of our highest admiration and esteem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-first day of January, 2015, do hereby express our sincere appreciation to Ralph H. Burlingham for his military service and do hereby declare that January 21, 2015, shall be officially recognized as ***Ralph H. Burlingham Day*** throughout the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Ralph H. Burlingham as a token of our respect and good wishes.