



Office of the Chicago City
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R2011-1247

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 11/2/2011
Sponsor(s): Sawyer, Roderick T. (6)
Type: Resolution
Title: Congratulations extended to Dorothy R. Leavell
Committee(s) Assignment:

**CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO DOROTHY R. LEAVELL ON 50 YEARS
WITH THE CHICAGO CRUSADER**

WHEREAS Mrs. Dorothy R. Leavell, native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, is the second surviving child of Sallie and Blane Gonder.

WHEREAS Mrs. Leavell's early formal education was achieved in the public schools of Pine Bluff, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class. She furthered her education at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

WHEREAS Since 1968, she has served as editor and publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group—Chicago and Gary, Ind.—after the death of her first husband Balm L. Leavell Jr., co-founder of both publications in 1940 and 1961, respectively. Where since its inception, the Chicago Crusader and Gary Crusader have never missed a single issue.

WHEREAS Mrs. Leavell was elected president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a Black newspaper trade organization, in June 1995 for a two-year term and was re-elected in June 1997 ending her term in 1999. The Association has a combined readership of more than 15,000,000 readers.

WHEREAS she increased the visibility and international stature of the NNPA. Mrs. Leavell led a 20-member delegation to Nigeria to investigate the Nigerian political crisis.

WHEREAS for more than 42 years, Mrs. Leavell has served in various other capacities in the NNPA including assistant secretary, a member of the board of directors, and as treasurer, a post she held for 10 years. She has been featured in articles and on television programs discussing such topics as women in business; the strength of the Black Press; cultural diversity and its impact on business; and several human and civil rights issues.

WHEREAS In June 2006 Mrs. Leavell was elected Chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, which oversees the philanthropic arm of the Association including the NNPA News Service, providing news articles and columns to the membership of NNPA; NNPA Black Press Archives housed at Howard University, in Washington, D. C.; as well as administer internships, scholarships and grants to college students throughout the United States.

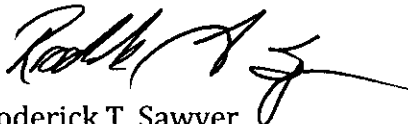
WHEREAS As a lifelong supporter of the arts, Mrs. Leavell donated a personal art collection of 150 commissioned pieces, valued at more than \$50,000 to the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago.

WHEREAS She is also the regional vice president of the National Black Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Knight Foundation/Gary Community Advisory Committee and founding member of "Heroes in the Hood" recognizing the everyday heroics of our youth.

WHEREAS Mrs. Leavell has often been honored and recognized for her philanthropic and civic contributions. A recipient of many awards, she was honored as NNPA's Publisher of the Year (1989); the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago; State of Indiana's "Attorney General for a Day; (June 9, 2000); Winnie Mandela Endurance with Dignity Award; Nation of Islam Distinguished Service Award; Operation PUSH Family Affair Award; by the National Association of Black Media Women; among many others

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that on the 2nd day of November 2011, the Mayor and the City Council of Chicago do hereby congratulate Mrs. Dorothy R. Leavell on her 50th Anniversary at the Chicago Crusader Newspaper Group

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dorothy R. Leavell.



Roderick T. Sawyer
Alderman, Sixth Ward