



Office of the Chicago City  
Clerk



R2011-1244

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 11/2/2011  
**Sponsor(s):** Burns, William D. (4)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to Late Dr. Warner B. Birts  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

RECEIVED 8W  
CITY CLERK DIVISION  
2011 OCT 28 PM 3:18

Resolution for Dr. Warner B. Birts

**WHEREAS**, It is with great sadness that the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago are hereby informed of the passing of Dr. Warner B. Birts, a lifelong educator, on September 24, 2011, by Alderman William D. Burns; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Warner B. Birts was born July 13, 1935 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was the fourth child born to parents Calvin and Harriet Birts. His parents, two brothers, Calvin, Jr. and Vernon, preceded him in death; and

**WHEREAS**, Warner received his education in the Milwaukee Public Schools where he excelled in his studies, graduating from high school at 16; and

**WHEREAS**, Warner furthered his education at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree. His advanced degrees include Master of Science degrees in Social Sciences and Educational Psychology from the University of Chicago. He earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Birts was an educator. His career in education spanned over four decades. As a young teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, he advanced through the ranks, starting initially at DuSable High School. An appointment to Englewood High School provided Warner the opportunity to continue his career of exemplary service as a science teacher, department chairperson, guidance counselor, assistant principal and finally as principal; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Birts had a passion for students and was deeply committed to mentoring young people. He wanted students to learn and to thrive. He also wanted students to achieve educationally as well as to develop healthy personal lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Birts sought out new initiatives to enrich the educational experience for students. He was an early adopter of computer lab programs and was a promoter of the culinary arts programs. He also encouraged students to pursue studies in medicine and medical related fields, particularly nursing and medical technology; and

**WHEREAS**, Warner was involved in many community organizations over the years including the Boy Scouts. He served as District Chairman of the Englewood area Boy Scouts. He was multiple recipient of the Ora Higgins Youth Foundation award for leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, some of his professional affiliations over the years include the Chicago Principals Association, the American Federation of School Principals, and the Stralton Association. Other affiliations include the Southern Poverty Law Center, the

American Civil Liberties Union, and NAACP, Operation Push, the Austin Schock Neighborhood Association, and various community organizations.

**WHEREAS**, Dr Warner B. Birts and Attorney Shirley Birts shared 36 years of marriage. They encouraged and nurtured each other along the way. Shirley will always remember his unwavering support as she pursued her legal career and became a practicing attorney; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council assemble this Second Day of November 2011, do hereby pay tribute to Dr. Warner B. Birts. and express gratitude for his years of service to the City of Chicago; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Birts family



---

William D. Burns  
Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
City of Chicago