



City of Chicago



R2013-671

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	7/24/2013
Sponsor(s):	Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Bishop D. Rayford Bell on 90th birthday
Committee(s) Assignment:	

SALUTE TO BISHOP D. RAYFORD BELL

WHEREAS, Bishop D. Rayford Bell, a remarkable preacher and spiritual icon, enters the legion of this city's burgeoning nonagenarians on July 9 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bell start out life as Dennis Raphael Bell, born to sharecropper parents in Leflore, Mississippi in 1923 and raised by his grandparents. In spite of such humble beginnings, he refused to accept his situation as simply his lot in life. He was convinced that a ray of light from above would shine down upon him and lift him up to greater heights; and

WHEREAS, In 1938, after a brief stint in Missouri, he returned to Mississippi where he met the late Darlene Griffin to whom he was joined in the holy bonds of matrimony on July 20, 1942. Their union was blessed with two sons, Harvey and Curtis, and, eventually, nine grandchildren. After 48 years of marriage, Darlene Griffin Bell made her transition following a lengthy illness. In April of 1991, Bishop Bell was remarried to Jacqueline Collins of Cincinnati, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after his first child was born, Bishop Bell was drafted into the United States Army during World War II. After training, he was sent to the European Theater where he saw action in the campaign of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was honorably discharged on December 9, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bell received the Holy Ghost on April 1, 1949. From that day forward, he sought to improve himself. After finishing high school at LaSalle University, he earned a Bachelors Degree with honors from Southwestern College, a Masters Degree in Theology from American Bible College, and a Doctoral Degree in both Theology and Philosophy from Toledo Bible College and Seminary; and

WHEREAS, For more than 55 years, Bishop D. Rayford Bell has been an Apostolic preacher serving the people of God in many ways, preaching the Gospel from street corners in Chicago to 49 states throughout this nation, more than 50 countries, all five inhabited continents, and many isles of the sea. He came up through the ranks at Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church on this city's Near West Side, serving as Sunday School teacher, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, Vice Chair and Chair of the Youth Department, Trustee, Assistant Pastor and, in 1958, Pastor. He is currently Senior Pastor; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bell founded a Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church in Joliet, Illinois and is the founder and president of Midwest Apostolic Bible College in Chicago. He founded the Sam Barnes Christian Academy for Kindergarten through 8th Grade and established the Mother Darlene Bell Scholarship Fund, named after his late wife, to assist the educational dreams of deserving Christian students; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bell served as Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith for almost two decades under his best friend, the late Presiding Bishop Elzie W. Young. Thereafter, Bishop Bell was the Presiding Bishop from January 1990 until July 2000. He now holds the title of Senior Bishop; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has apprised this august body of Bishop D. Rayford Bell's significant milestone, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 24th Day of July, 2013, do hereby salute Bishop D. Rayford Bell upon the occasion of his 90th Birthday and extend our very best wishes for health, happiness and success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Bishop D. Rayford Bell.

RECEIVED
CITY COUNCIL DIVISION
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Sincerely,

Robert W. Fioretti
Alderman, 2nd Ward