



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-251

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 2/15/2012

Sponsor(s): Arena, John (45)
O'Connor, Mary (41)

Type: Resolution

Title: Recognition extended to Louise Schaaf

Committee(s) Assignment:

SALUTE TO LOUISE SCHAAF

WHEREAS, Louise Schaaf, a long-time resident of Chicago, born in Dietlingen, Germany on October 16, 1906; and

WHEREAS, Because the German economy was in crisis during that time, Louise Schaaf emigrated to the United States on May, 24, 1928, looking for a brighter tomorrow. She arrived in New York by boat on June 4th, 1928, and began working as a domestic in New Jersey. In August of 1928, she came by train to this city where she found employment as a household domestic making \$8 every two weeks, first in suburban Winnetka, and later in Humboldt Park. Upon receiving her first pay, she bought a \$5 gold piece that she mailed to her father back in Germany; and

WHEREAS, Louise Schaaf spent many of her Sundays watching her fellow German immigrants play soccer. This allowed her to meet her husband, Erwin Schaaf, on the soccer field. They were married in 1931; and

WHEREAS, After marriage, she continued working as a domestic while Erwin worked as a tool and die maker. In 1934, their union was blessed by a daughter, Ruth, and in 1944, by a son, Henry. On Sundays she would cook for the Scwabens Athletic Club, a soccer organization to which her husband belonged that still exists today in the suburb of Buffalo Grove; and

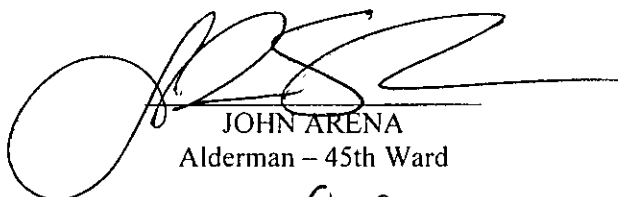
WHEREAS, On June 6th, 1945, she became a United States citizen. After living in several apartments, the couple bought their first home in 1949 and moved to her current residence in 1959. Her husband had a steady job for 20 years at the Hapsburg Inn in Des Plaines as a bartender. She went back to work alongside her husband for eight years at the Hapsburg Inn after her children reached adulthood; and


WHEREAS, After not being able to lay eyes on her father for almost a quarter century, Louise Schaaf was reunited with him during a visit to Germany during the 1950s. She found that her father kept the gold piece she had sent him more than two decades ago. As a touching gesture of love, he returned it to her just before she came back to the United States. Since then, she has visited her homeland 10 times. The last time was in 1999 when she attended her sisters 90th birthday party; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Mary O'Connor, the Alderman of the 41st Ward, and The Honorable John Arena, the Alderman of the 45th Ward, have apprised this august body of the heartwarming and remarkable milestones achieved by this noteworthy woman; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 15th Day of February, 2012 AD, do hereby salute Louise Schaaf for longevity and her long time residency in the Chicago community and extend our very best wishes for many more years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Louise Schaaf.


JOHN ARENA
Alderman - 45th Ward


Mary O'Connor
41

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