



# City of Chicago



R2014-867

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 11/19/2014  
**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to late Honorable John T. Downey  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 84; and

**WHEREAS,** The Chicago City Council has been informed of his passing by Alderman Edward M. Burke; and

**WHEREAS,** A longtime resident of New Haven, Connecticut, John T. Downey was an American hero of the Cold War era and the loving husband of Audrey; and

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey was the much-adored father of Jack Lee to whom he imparted many of the fine and noble qualities that he possessed in abundance; and

**WHEREAS,** The son of a judge, the Honorable John T. Downey graduated from Choate School and Yale University before joining the Central Intelligence Agency; and

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey's plane was shot down in 1952 while on a covert mission over China and he spent more than two decades in Chinese prisons; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1973 Secretary of State Henry Kissinger negotiated the Honorable John T. Downey's release and he was reunited with his family; and

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey graduated from Harvard Law School in 1976 and served as Secretary of Business Regulation and as Commissioner of the Public Utility Control Department for the State of Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1987 the Honorable John T. Downey was appointed to a Superior Court judgeship and eventually rose to become Chief Administrative Judge for Juvenile Matters; and

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey retired in 1997 and the New Haven Courthouse and Detention Center was named in his honor in 2002; and

**WHEREAS,** The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of the Honorable John T. Downey serve as an example to all; and

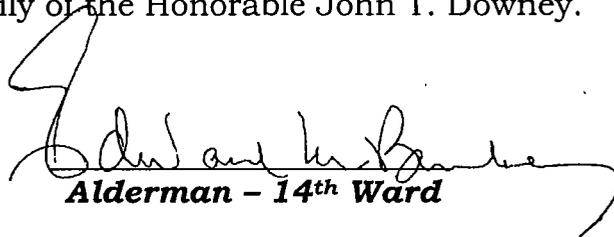
**WHEREAS,** His love of life and ability to live it to the fullest endeared the Honorable John T. Downey to his family members, friends and all who knew him, and enabled him to enrich their lives in ways they will never forget; and

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable John T. Downey will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by his many relatives, friends and admirers; and

**WHEREAS,** To his beloved family, the Honorable John T. Downey imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this nineteenth day of November, 2014, do hereby commemorate the Honorable John T. Downey for his grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to his family; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of the Honorable John T. Downey.

  
**Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward**