



# City of Chicago



R2015-727

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/24/2015
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Burke (14)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late Emma Didlake
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 110; and

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

**WHEREAS,** A longtime resident of Detroit, Michigan, Emma Didlake was America's oldest veteran; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in the small community of Boligee, Alabama, in 1905, Emma Didlake later moved with her family to Kentucky; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1922 Emma Didlake married her husband, Oscar, who worked as a coal miner and the couple raised five children; and

**WHEREAS,** During World War II, as a 38-year-old wife and mother, Emma Didlake joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake served her country stateside for seven months as a Private and driver; and

**WHEREAS,** Following the war, the family settled in Detroit where Emma Didlake became an active member of the NAACP; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake participated in the historic 1963 civil rights march on Washington, D.C., led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake was awarded the NAACP's *James Weldon Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake was a longtime member of Wolverine Chapter 67 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association; and

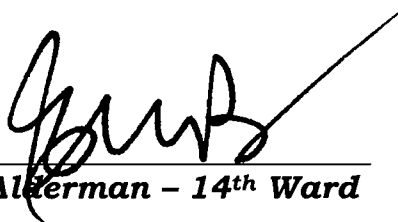
**WHEREAS,** In July of 2015, Emma Didlake participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where she met with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office and was hailed as a trailblazer who helped to integrate the armed forces; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Didlake will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by her many relatives, friends and admirers; and

**WHEREAS,** To her beloved family, Emma Didlake 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 twenty-fourth day of September 2015, do hereby commemorate Emma Didlake for her grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to her family; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Emma Didlake.



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

2020