



City of Chicago



R2017-290

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:	4/19/2017
Sponsor(s):	Harris (8)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Naomi Woods 100th birthday
Committee(s) Assignment:	

Resolution Honoring the Life & Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Chicago Resident Mrs. Naomi Woods

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom and judgment continues to show favor by granting a long life to **Mrs. Naomi Woods**, a beloved citizen, faithful woman of God and friend, who on the afternoon of **Wednesday, May 31, 2017** will be honored by family and friends at her 100th birthday celebration; and

WHEREAS, I **Alderman Michelle A. Harris**, and on behalf of the residents **8th Ward** & my fellow colleagues of the **Chicago City Council** have informed this august body of this significant upcoming centennial birthday of **Mrs. Naomi Woods**; and

WHEREAS, History is considered by many to be a very fascinating subject. It is so much more than memorizing dates. It's also about learning and appreciating the personal and professional histories of people who were born long ago. History is literally the story behind the life of each person, every trend, news headline, and major event that is happening right now; and

WHEREAS, On May 31, 1917, **Mrs. Naomi Woods** was born in Washington, D.C. One of six children born to her loving parents **Mr. Abraham C. Thompson** and **Mrs. Harriett (nee Garrison) Thompson**, she has five other siblings, four of whom (**Ruth-John-Eva & Abe**) are deceased. Her sister **Lavinia** will also join her in celebrating this special day; and

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Woods** relocated to the Chicago-area with her family in her youth, and was educated at Haven Elementary Dewey Middle School, and Evanston Township High School. **Mrs. Woods** was married to her beloved late husband, **Mr. Chesterfield Woods**, for 65 years. A dedicated, loving wife and mother, she focused primarily on raising and caring for her family of three daughters - - **Beverly, Barbara**, and **Brenda**, as well as her son **Bruce** as a homemaker. Always elegantly attired, later in life, she enjoyed a career in sales at several local high fashion women's clothing emporiums, including Hyde Park's former Source Boutique, and the former Le Boy's Boutique, located in the historic South Shore community; and

WHEREAS, **Naomi Woods** life has further been distinguished by a legacy of social and civic activism. For several decades she was involved with the Chicago Northern District of Women (CNDW). **Mrs. Woods** is also a dedicated woman of God who has been a faithful member of the **St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church** in the city's Lilydale neighborhood for many years. **Mrs. Woods** is also fondly recognized as one of longest-serving volunteers at the Chicago Public Library's Cultural Center on Michigan and Randolph in downtown Chicago, where she cheerfully greeted visitors and assisted with gift shop sales; and

WHEREAS, Today, **Mrs. Naomi Woods**, a widow, is a dynamic individual who loves the color red, reading and writing poetry, watching old movies, and listening to all types of music - - in particular big band jazz. She and her late husband were well-known as a gifted dancing couple who frequently performed upon request at various church, civic and social functions. Fiercely independent, **Mrs. Woods** currently still lives in her beloved home in the Calumet Heights/South Shore neighborhood. Further, she was an actively engaged resident of the 8th Ward where she has lived for nearly forty years, until time and health challenges intervened. She is perhaps best known for her engaging personality, winning smile, sense of humor and the awesome ability to inspire others to help get things done to better her community; and

WHEREAS, Although somewhat physically slowed by the passage of time, both her spirit and mind remains sharp and agile. **Mrs. Woods** is an avid book reader, and a committed civic arts enthusiast who greatly enjoys interacting with friends, family and neighbors over coffee, and good meals in nice restaurants featuring some of her favorite desserts - ice cream and either apple or cherry pie. While she never formally taught school, she is intuitively an instructor - - teaching us all about the beauty, joy and appreciation for life, work, community involvement and many other things - - and she happily shares this positive life philosophy with virtually everyone she meets; and

WHEREAS, In many ways, **Mrs. Woods's** life is a testament to the nature of a true Chicagoan - - active, engaged within her community and continually inspired to do her part to make life better for others; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here in assembly this 19th day of April, 2017 A.D., do hereby express our most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful **100th Centennial** birthday celebration to **Mrs. Naomi Woods**, and extend to her family, friends, neighbors and church members our sincere happiness that she has achieved this great life milestone; and

Be It Further Resolved, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to **Mrs. Naomi Woods** on the exceptionally wonderful and auspicious occasion of her 100th birthday.



Michelle A. Harris, Alderman – 8th Ward

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