



Office of the City Clerk



R2013-405

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 4/10/2013
Sponsor(s): Lane, Lona (18)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Louis Albert Fitzgerald, Jr.
Committee(s) Assignment:

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, the Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom called to his eternal journey, Louis Albert Fitzgerald Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this by 18th Ward Alderman Lona Lane; and

WHEREAS, Louis was born on January 26, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois to Louis Albert Fitzgerald Sr. and Ruth Turner Fitzgerald. He was their only child. His parents passed while Louis was in his youth.

WHEREAS, Louis entered the United States Army in 1946. While in the Armed Services, he attended Keio University in Japan – School of Business Administration. After completing his tour of military duties, he returned to Chicago, Illinois to embark on his career; and

WHEREAS, He married the late Jeanette Arnold, to this union, two daughters were born, Michelle and Stephanie. Louis married Mercedes Kelsey in 1969, to this union, a son, Brent Louis Fitzgerald, Sr. was born who was one of his greatest blessings. He also considered his nephew, Durell James, whom he loved, as his second son; and

WHEREAS, Louis set high standards for himself. In 1962, Louis collaborated with CBS-TV to produce a television documentary called "Decision at 83rd Street". He also joined the staff at WCIO-TV Channel 26 as an account executive. He became its top salesman. He later became a talk show host for "Conversation Piece" on Channel 26. He received an invitation to join NBC-TV and became the first African American Account Executive for Channel 5. He was also a columnist for several newspapers to include the Chicago Defender as his most notable contribution in print. In addition, having two separate successful radio talk shows on WIND and WVON focused on many current issues; and

WHEREAS, Louis was very active in community services, serving two terms as president of the Chatham-Avalon Park Community Council. In addition, he served as president of the North Beverly Civic Association for two years upon which he received numerous awards for community service; and

WHEREAS, Later, he went to work for the Federal Government as a professional with the Department of Labor where he was Regional Director of the Midwest Division – Job Corp; and

WHEREAS, His greatest pastime was listening to jazz and trying to indoctrinate everyone around to love it as much as he did. After his retirement he continued to be active in community affairs making sure that everything was in order; and

WHEREAS, Louis leaves to celebrate his life and precious memories; his loving and devoted wife, Mercedes Kelsey Fitzgerald; one son, Brent Louis Fitzgerald Sr. (Melinda); two daughters, Michelle Spurlock and Stephanie Brooks (Emile); three grandsons, Brandon Spurlock (Holly), Brent Fitzgerald Jr., and Justin Fitzgerald; two grand-daughters, Stacey Brown (Rick), and Kelly Barnes (Don); one aunt, Charlotte Bell; three sisters-in-law, Susie James, Hazel Kelsey Bagley, and Eula Kelsey;

eight great-grandchildren; eighteen nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends; and; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here in assembly this tenth day of April, 2013, A.D., do hereby express our sorrow on the passing of Louis Albert Fitzgerald Jr. and extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Louis Fitzgerald Jr.'s family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lona Lane", written over a horizontal line.

Lona Lane
18th Ward Alderman