



City of Chicago



R2014-754

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/8/2014
Sponsor(s):	Burnett (27)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Walter L. Sojka
Committee(s) Assignment:	

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Walter L. Sojka, a U.S Army Veteran of the Korean War was called home to God on August 17, 2014, at the age of 84, and

WHEREAS, This October body has been informed of his passing by the Honorable Walter Burnett Jr, Alderman of the 27th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Walter L. Sojka, was born on June 28, 1930 to Peter J. Sojka sr. and Elizabeth J. (Wrzesinaki) Sojka; and

WHEREAS, Walter attended Holy Innocents grammar school and then Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, after graduation he attend the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, and continued his education at Worsham College of Mortuary Science where he graduated as a Funeral Director; and

WHEREAS, He then was drafted serving his country, as a United States Army Master Sergeant, in the Korean War. In 1953, Walter was honorably discharged and received a Bronze star metal, he returned home to establish his Funeral Home business; and

WHEREAS, As a first generation funeral director, in 1954 and at the age of only 23, he opened the Walter L. Sojka Funeral Home at 1427 West Chicago Avenue and lived above it for over 60 years. He had a deep love for his neighborhood and local residents and businesses dubbed him "The Mayor of Chicago Avenue"; and

WHEREAS, He was the founder of the "Polish Museum of America's Summer Ball", "Friends of Nazareth in Des Plaines" and his sister's mission, "Friends of Sister Ancilla for the Philippine Mission"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sojka was an officer and/or member of numerous organizations including: The National and Illinois Funeral Directors Associations, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Museum of America, the Polish Veterans of America Post #72, Bishop Murphy's Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic League, St. Vincent DePaul, the Chicago Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Inter-Collegiate Council, the Northwest Community Organization, where he established the first senior citizen club in the community in 1962 at Pulaski Park, and many more; and

WHEREAS, He served as lay Chairman and Greeter for Pope John Paul II's first visit to Chicago in 1979. Mr. Sojka's leadership at St. Boniface and Holy Innocents Parishes will always be remembered. His professional leadership, civic and religious involvement were the cornerstones of his life. He always lived his life, both professionally and personally, by serving others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sojka remained a bachelor and never had children of his own, but throughout his life, when he saw potential in a young person, he served as a personal and professional role model and mentor. He was always generous with his time, resources and talents. In others, he instilled patriotism to country, political and community involvement, an unparalleled work ethic, a dedication to your chosen profession, family and friends and a strong faith.

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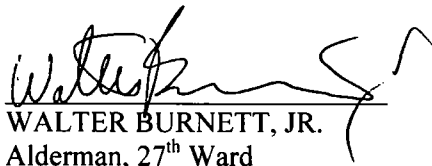
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WHEREAS, Walter L. Sojka was a gentleman and the quintessential funeral director. The Walter L. Sojka Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate who will be a first generation funeral director, with a passion for funeral service and a dedication to community service, someone who cares for and is eager to help others, by sacrificing their time and talents, and someone with a diligent work ethic who possesses a belief in the moral benefit of hard work and its ability to enhance their character; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this eighth day of October, 2014 A.D., do hereby commemorate Walter L. Sojka for his many lifetime contributions and do hereby extend to his family and many friends our sincere condolences.

Be It Further Resolved, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Walter L. Sojka.


WALTER BURNETT, JR.
Alderman, 27th Ward

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