



City of Chicago



R2013-896

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/16/2013
Sponsor(s):	Harris (8)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Geraldine Cole
Committee(s) Assignment:	

TRIBUTE TO LATE GERALDINE COLE

WHEREAS, God in His Infinite Wisdom and Judgment, has called Geraldine Cole, an outstanding citizen and beloved friend, to eternal life; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine Cole was born in our great City on a beautiful autumn day to her proud and loving parents Sylvia Stanley Harper and Henry Harper, Sr. She was the eldest child in the Harper Family and was affectionately known as “Gerri” by her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Gerri was a graduate of DuSable High School and was a dedicated member of the Jazz Band, under the leadership of Captain Walter Dyett. Gerri matured into a young woman filled with an abundance of grace, charm, patience and wisdom and soon captured the heart of the man who was to become her soul mate, Charles Cole, Sr. They were united in marriage and shared 62 years of happiness with each other and their children; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine Cole cherished life and embraced all of life’s challenges. She had a sharp mind and a thirst for knowledge, which was her motivation to research just about everything. Her perpetual quest for knowledge, on a plethora of subjects, resulted in her being affectionately being known to her family as “The Book of Knowledge”; and

WHEREAS, Gerri appreciated the arts, dance and jazz so much that she and her Donald formed the arts organization known as ‘Approach Incorporated’. They were instrumental in the introduction of the renowned jazz artist, Sun Ra, to Chicago. Gerri was also the founding member of her social club, which began in 1947, and continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine carried her activism and vibrant energy to her grateful 8th Ward community, always working to make a positive impact on her neighborhood and its’ residents, however, she will be remembered mostly for her compassion, strength and love; and

WHEREAS, In a long and productive life, Geraldine Cole reached out to touch many and typified the strength and solidity of family life. Left behind to cherish Geraldine “Gerri” Cole’s memory and mourn her passing are her devoted children, Sandra Childress-Smith (Napoleon), Veda Bently-Brown (Ari) and Charles Cole, Jr.; her loving sister, Sharon Polk (Milton); adoring grandchildren, Veda Vasquez, Kyle Sneed (Kim), and Nicholas Cole; great grandchildren, Max Vasquez, Kiley Sneed, Oscar Vasquez III, and Kole Sneed; generational cousins, John Lewis (Mary), Marlene Mosby, Thomas Hayes, Mary Lewis, Willence Beverly, the Wildeson and Harper Families (and her ten nieces and nephews), William “Pinky” Robinson (Carol), Tracy McCoy (Michael), Heidi Polk, Donn Carl Harper, Denise Hicks, Kim Belk, Hendrene Harper, Shelly Llorens, Brian Harper, Jada Harper, and a host of other relatives and many friends; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this sixteenth day of October 2013, A.D., do hereby express our sorrow on the passing of Geraldine “Gerri” Cole and extend to her family and friends our sincere condolences.

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Geraldine Cole.



MICHELLE A. HARRIS
Alderman – 8th Ward

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