



City of Chicago



R2022-386

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/27/2022
Sponsor(s):	Burke (14)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Lee Flaherty
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lee Flaherty has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 90; and

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

WHEREAS, Lee is survived by his daughter, Shannon Flaherty Micheletto and his former wife, Sharron Lee Gleason; and

WHEREAS, Lee was born in Indianola, Nebraska in 1931, but his mother Frances moved Lee and his older brothers Dennis and Russell to Richmond, California across the bay from San Francisco, where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, He went to work for Anderson Drug Company in 1942 until 1951 and was recognized as Top Salesman Northern California by McKesson & Robbins; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, he enlisted in the Army as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne and spent three years in the service; and

WHEREAS, After his military service, Lee graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing; and

WHEREAS, After college, Lee came to Chicago to work for the marketing group of the Schmidt Lithograph Company; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Lee decided to go into business for himself and founded Flair Communications in Chicago and started with three companies, Morton Salt, Accent International, and Alberto-Culver grossing \$2 million in just two years with over 100 employees and offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and New York; and

WHEREAS, Lee also did marketing for Rolls-Royce and was given a car in lieu of payment. Eventually, he was given three, with the most recent usually parked in front of the Flair House; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Lee founded and sponsored the Chicago Marathon for two years until Beatrice Foods became the exclusive sponsor. As the marathon grew, its sponsorship passed from Beatrice to LaSalle Bank to Bank of America; and

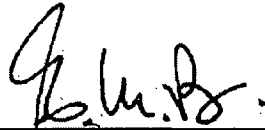
WHEREAS, Lee founded the Old Pat's Worlds Largest Block Party in 1984, and founded Pets Are Worth Saving (PAWS) 4K dog Walk in 2001; and

WHEREAS, He was a lifetime member of the President's Council Fitness, Sports and Nutrition; and

WHEREAS, Lee received the Horatio Alger Award for Entrepreneurship, was a Marketing Executive of the Year three times, and revitalized a neglected neighborhood into an artistic destination naming it River North, home to the most art galleries in America outside of New York; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-seventh day of April, 2022, do hereby commemorate Lee Flaherty for his grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Lee Flaherty.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. M. Burke", is written above a horizontal line.

Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward