



# City of Chicago



R2014-674

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/10/2014
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Burke (14)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late Theodore VanKirk
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## ***RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 93; and

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

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk was the navigator and last surviving crew member of the Enola Gay which dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, and hastened the end of World War II; and

***WHEREAS***, A native of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, Theodore VanKirk joined the Army Air Force Aviation Cadet program in 1941 and received his commission and navigator wings in 1942; and

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk was assigned to serve in the first navigational B-17 Flying Fortress Unit in England and participated in 57 bombing missions, primarily over Germany; and

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk trained for the first atomic bomb run at Wendover Field, Utah from November of 1944 to June of 1945; and

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk was 24-years old when he served as navigator on the Superfortress that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945; and

***WHEREAS***, The atomic blasts that struck Hiroshima, and three days later Nagasaki, resulted in the nearly immediate surrender of Japan, shortening the war and eliminating the need for an Allied land invasion; and


***WHEREAS***, The bravery and dedication of Theodore VanKirk serve as an example to all; and

***WHEREAS***, Theodore VanKirk will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by his many relatives, friends and admirers; and

**WHEREAS,** To his beloved family, Theodore VanKirk imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this tenth day of September, 2014, do hereby commemorate Theodore VanKirk 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 Theodore VanKirk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JWB', is written above a horizontal line.

**Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward**