



# City of Chicago



R2013-958

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	10/16/2013
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Laurino (39)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late John Bernard Duff
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that members of this Chamber learned of the death of Former Chicago Public Library Commissioner John Bernard Duff, on October 1, 2013, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, The City Council has been informed of his passing by the Honorable Margaret Laurino, Alderman of the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward; and

WHEREAS, The beloved husband of Estelle Shanley, loving father of Michael, John, Robert, Maureen, Emily and Patricia Duff Bernacki; dear grandfather of eight and friend of many, John leaves a legacy of faith, compassion, dignity and love; and

WHEREAS, John Duff grew up in South Orange, New Jersey as the oldest of four brothers in a working-class family. He received a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in New York, a master's degree from Seton Hall University in New Jersey and his doctorate in history, in 1964, from Columbia University in New York. He taught and held administrative posts at Seton Hall University; was president of the University of Lowell in Massachusetts from 1976 to 1981; and was the state's Chancellor of Higher Public Education in Boston before coming to Chicago in 1985 as Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library, the first non-librarian to head the system. In 1992, John Duff took over as the eighth President of Columbia College; and

WHEREAS, During his seven years as Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library, John Duff championed the cause for a new central Chicago library. After years of effort, a design competition led to the construction of the Harold Washington Library Center on State Street in the South Loop; and

WHEREAS, Believing in the ideas of access and diversity he sometimes saw potential in people before they saw it themselves. As one of the grandest storytellers, and he wrote four books on American and Irish-American History, often finding historic parallels to present-day problems; and

WHEREAS, John Duff will be deeply missed, but the memory of his character, intelligence and compassion will live on in those who knew and loved him; 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, do hereby express our sorrow on the death of John Duff and extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of John Bernard Duff.



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MARGARET LAURINO  
Alderman, 39<sup>th</sup> Ward