



City of Chicago



R2019-896

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 12/18/2019
Sponsor(s): Burke (14)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Reverend George Harold Clements
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Reverend George Clements has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 87; and

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

WHEREAS, Father Clements is survived by his sons, Friday, Stewart, St. Anthony and Joseph; a sister, Ynez Gilmer, 15 grandchildren, and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, George Harold Clements was born to Samuel and Aldonia Clements on January 26, 1932, in Chicago, where his father worked as a city auditor; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, Father Clements became the first African-American to graduate from the Chicago Archdiocese's Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of St. Mary of the Lake seminary in Mundelein, IL, north of Chicago, before he was ordained in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Father Clements was devoted to the civil rights movement as well as his faith, and he worked hard to advance black causes; and

WHEREAS, Father Clements marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Chicago, Alabama and Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Father Clements helped create programs, like the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, to support African-Americans within the Church; and

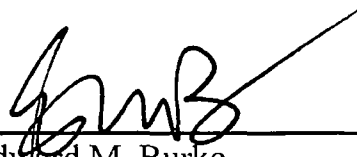
WHEREAS, Father Clements started programs to help drug addicts and incarcerated people and their families; and

WHEREAS, In 1980 Father Clements created One Church One Child, a program to help Catholic churches find adoptive parents for orphaned black children, and later that year he adopted a black 13-year-old boy, Joseph and in time adopted an additional three sons; and

WHEREAS, To his beloved family, Reverend George Clements 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 Eighteenth day of December, 2019, do hereby commemorate Reverend George Clements 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 Reverend George Clements.



Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward