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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 12/14/2011
Sponsor(s): Burns, William D. (4)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to Late James E. Bowman M.D
Committee(s) Assignment:

Resolution for Dr. James E. Bowman

WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago are hereby informed of the passing of James E. Bowman, MD, Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine at the University of Chicago, a trailblazer, on September 28, by Alderman William D. Burns; and

WHEREAS, Born on Feb 5, 1923, James Edward Bowman grew up in Washington, DC, during a tumultuous time in U.S. history where racism stained the lives of many African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Dr Bowman received his high school education at the historic all African-American Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Washington D.C. , where many of the faculty had earned PhDs from the some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, He went on to earn a bachelor of science from Howard University, a noted HBCU (Historical Black Colleges & Universities) in the nation's capital in 1943. At that same university he enrolled into the medical school to earn his medical degree; and

WHEREAS, By attending medical school as part of the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Howard University, Bowman was able to obtain his medical degree in 1946; and

WHEREAS, After an internship at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., Bowman did his residency in pathology at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago from 1947 to 1952. From 1952 to 1955 he worked at the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Bowman accepted a position in Iran where he studied Favism, a disease which relates to the deficiency of glucose-6-dehydrogenase. From 1961 to 1962, Bowman studied genetics at the Galton Laboratory at the University College of London; and

WHEREAS, After returning from London, University of Chicago Professor Alf Alving invited Dr. Bowman to take a faculty position there in the malaria research unit. His research on enzyme deficiency at the University of Chicago sent him abroad to do population studies. Bowman traveled to Mexico, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Uganda among other places. From 1981 to 1982, Bowman studied under the Henry J. Kaiser Senior Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University; and

WHEREAS, An expert in the fields of pathology and genetics and Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine at the University of Chicago, Dr. Bowman also served on the Committee on Genetics; the Committee on African-African-American Studies; and as a senior scholar for the MacLean Center for Clinical Medial

Ethics. In addition, he served as the Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, and was Assistant Dean of Students for Minority Affairs.; and

WHEREAS, He published more than ninety works in the fields of general human genetics; hematological population genetics; genetic variation among diverse peoples; and ethical, legal and public policy issues in human genetics. One of his most notable books entitled, "Genetic Variation Disorders in People of African Origin," was co-authored with Robert Barry; and

WHEREAS, James Edward Bowman M.D. Professor Emeritus died September 28, 2011 at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Valerie Bowman Jarrett; and granddaughter; Now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council assemble this Fourteenth Day of December 2011, do hereby pay tribute to James Edward Bowman, M.D., and express gratitude for his years of service to the City of Chicago and his contribution to the scientific body of knowledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Valerie Bowman Jarrett.



William D. Burns
Alderman, 4th Ward
City of Chicago

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