



City of Chicago



R2021-645

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	5/26/2021
Sponsor(s):	Smith (43)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Tribute to late Benjamin Mark Squires
Committee(s) Assignment:	

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN SQUIRES

WHEREAS, Benjamin Mark Squires, devoted public health advocate, avid runner, and beloved member of the Lincoln Park Community passed away on April 21, 2021, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Benjamin's passing by the Honorable Michele Smith, Alderman of the 43rd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Born on the Southside of Chicago in 1925, Benjamin was the oldest of four siblings; he grew up in the South Shore neighborhood before moving with his family to Evanston; and

WHEREAS, After serving as a tail gunner in World War II with multiple combat missions over Germany, Ben returned home where he graduated from Northwestern University and entered the workforce; and

WHEREAS, In his early days, Ben worked as a teacher and as a business consultant, but found his calling when he went to work for the State of Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH); he spent more than 20 years working for IDPH on various initiatives and developed a real passion for leading infant mortality reduction programs in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Ben was devoted to his work as a public health advocate, and served on the board of the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group for many years; and

WHEREAS, When Ben was not working, he was running; he was a founding member of the Lincoln Park Pacers running club in 1984 – the first of its kind in Chicago; he ran countless marathons and ultra-marathons, setting a record in his age group after running 93 miles in 24 hours; the Chicago Marathon became a staple for him, and when he could no longer run, he was in the front row at Clark and Fullerton cheering on the runners; and

WHEREAS, Ben loved home improvement projects, camping, canoeing, playing boogie woogie on the piano, picnicking at Diversey Harbor, and connecting with young people; and

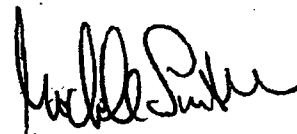
WHEREAS, Ben and his late wife Susan were friendly and social; they loved to throw parties, enjoyed a good gin and tonic, and always offered a room to their daughters' friends; and

WHEREAS, Ben was considered the "mayor" of Burling Street, and was beloved by all his neighbors;

WHEREAS, Ben is survived by his two daughters, Amy (Frank Ishman) and Sarah (Mike Doyle); and his beloved granddaughter Tessa, who played some tunes on his piano during his final days; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-sixth day of May, 2021, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Benjamin Mark Squires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family Benjamin Mark Squires as sign of our honor and respect.



MICHELE SMITH
Alderman, 43rd Ward