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R2012-256

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	2/15/2012
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Osterman, Harry (48)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Resolution urging induction of coach George Ireland into Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

**RESOLUTION URGING THE INDUCTION OF COACH GEORGE IRELAND INTO THE  
NAISMITH BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME**

WHEREAS, George Ireland was an American basketball legend who, in 1963, guided Chicago's Loyola Ramblers to the only Illinois National College Athletic Association basketball championship to this day; and

WHEREAS, During their quest for that championship, George Ireland also became the first NCAA Division I coach to break racial barriers by having four African American players in this top-tier line-up. That season, the Rambler's, led by African Americans Jerry Harkness and Les Hunter, compiled 23 wins and 2 losses during the regular season, finishing first in the country in scoring; and

WHEREAS, During the first round of the NCAA Tournament, George Ireland's Loyola Ramblers defeated Tennessee Tech by a lopsided 111-42 score, still the largest margin of victory in NCAA tournament history. After victories over Mississippi State, Illinois and Duke, the Ramblers reached the finals, facing defending champions Cincinnati. With only 10 minutes left in the game, the Ramblers were behind Cincinnati by 15 points, but they rallied to force overtime, eventually winning the game by 60 to 58 with a last-second tip-in; and

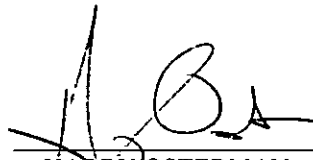
WHEREAS, George Ireland was a native of Madison, Wisconsin and an All-American basketball player on the University of Notre Dame team with another future legendary coach, Ray Meyer. His first coaching job was at Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois. In 1951, he succeeded John Jordan, another former teammate from Notre Dame, as head coach at Loyola University here in this city where he remained until 1975. Ireland's coaching utilized a full-court press and a high-speed style of play. In 1961, he was the first coach of a major college program to use a lineup of five African American players at a time when some schools refused to play against a team with even one black member; and

WHEREAS, George Ireland's remarkable coaching of his team to victory against all adversity, showing exceptional courage in breaking the racial barriers three years before anyone else in spite of hate mail and threats issued by the Klu KluxKlan, has certainly earned him a place of honor in basketball history; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Harry Osterman, Alderman of the 48th Ward, has apprised this august body of the victorious and heroic feats of this noteworthy athletic leader; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the city of Chicago City Council, assembled here this 15th day of February, 2012 A.D., do hereby salute the memory of George Ireland, who passed away at the age of 88 on September 14, 2001 in suburban Addison, Illinois and urge that Loyola University Chicago Coach George Ireland be posthumously inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

  
HARRY OSTERMAN  
Alderman - 48th Ward

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