



# City of Chicago



R2013-1019

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 11/13/2013  
**Sponsor(s):** Burke (14)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to late John Pitts Spence  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of ninety-five; and

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

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence was the first United States combat “frogman” in World War II and an important figure in the training that led to the establishment of the Navy SEALs; and

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence was the first enlisted man selected for a clandestine unit which was organized by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS); and

**WHEREAS,** The goal of the group to which John Pitts Spence belonged was to sink enemy ships and blow up enemy emplacements that had been erected to thwart beach landings; and

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence also participated in top-secret missions launched from England into enemy-held France to rescue downed airmen; and

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence was later detailed to the Bahamas to train combat swimmers for the invasion of Japan; and

**WHEREAS,** Following the war, John Pitts Spence remained in the Navy until 1961 when he returned to a job he previously held at Lockheed Martin; and

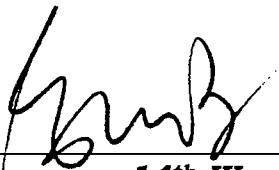
**WHEREAS,** The bravery, sacrifice and dedication of John Pitts Spence serve as an example to all; and

**WHEREAS,** John Pitts Spence will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by his many relatives, friends and admirers; and

**WHEREAS,** To his beloved family, John Pitts Spence 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 thirteenth day of November, 2013, do hereby commemorate John Pitts Spence 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 John Pitts Spence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. B. Spence', written over a horizontal line.

**Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward**