



City of Chicago



R2023-494

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 3/15/2023
Sponsor(s): Burke (14)
Type: Resolution
Title: Tribute to late Honorable Dean Michael Trafelet
Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Honorable Dean Michael Trafelet has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 81; and

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

WHEREAS, Dean is survived by his wife, Louise, and three children from a prior marriage, Remy W. Trafelet (Missy), Theodore M. Trafelet (Lisa), Douglas A. Trafelet (Libby), seven grandchildren, and a stepson, Timothy O. Stearns; and

WHEREAS, Born on February 1, 1942, he was a resident of Chicago and Door County, Wisconsin, with his wife of thirty years, Louise Bronner Trafelet; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from Northwestern University and the University of Tulsa College of Law, where he was the runner-up for its Anchor Award of Achievement; and

WHEREAS, Dean rose to become a nationally known attorney and a founding partner of Schlegel & Trafelet and was one of the originators of the Agent Orange class action litigation, which resulted in one of the largest settlements at the time; and

WHEREAS, He successfully represented numerous railroads defending demands from the EPA, thus avoiding catastrophic rail disruptions throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, From 1984 to 1997, Dean served on the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, where, by special assignment, he presided over complex, toxic tort, product liability, and environmental cases; and

WHEREAS, Dean was an advisor to the State of Alaska on the 1989 Exxon-Valdez oil spill and was appointed by Governor Thompson to the Illinois Task Force on the Transportation and Handling of Toxic Materials; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, the Illinois Supreme Court re-appointed him to the bench to resume his docket of asbestos product liability cases, including the largest salmonella outbreak in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Upon his judicial retirement in 1997, he became a partner at Hedlund, Hanley & John until 2002; and

WHEREAS, Dean served by appointment of both the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts, as a trustee of multiple asbestos and pharmaceutical trusts and as the court-appointed Future Claims Representative of claimants in numerous

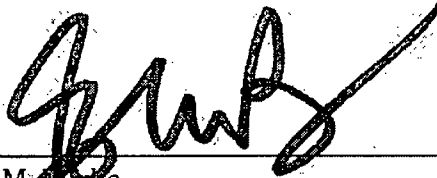
trusts, and he lectured at Northwestern University's School of Law and was Chairman of the Board of the Delaware Claims Processing Facility and NextClaim Solutions; and

WHEREAS, Dean was a co-producer, business manager, and performer at the Chicago Bar Association's Christmas Spirits Show for twenty-three years, where his humor and imagination flourished; and

WHEREAS, To his beloved family, Dean imparts a legacy of generosity, compassion, devotion to family and unwavering faith in God; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this fifteenth day of March, 2023, do hereby commemorate Dean 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 Dean Michael Trafelet.



Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 1st Ward