



City of Chicago



R2023-424

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 3/15/2023

Sponsor(s): Burke (14)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Honorable Alfred J. Paul on retirement from Circuit Court of Cook County

Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Honorable Alfred J. Paul retires after 36 years as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County on Veterans Day (11/11/2022) at 11:11 A.M in recognition of his military service; and

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

WHEREAS, His judicial colleagues presented him an award engraved with these words, "To the best team player who never said no to anyone who needed help"; and

WHEREAS, Alfred was born in 1942 in Huszczka Duza, Poland, a tiny settlement about 100 miles from Lviv, Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, President Truman signed the Displaced Persons Act, which allowed families such as the Pauls to immigrate to the United States if they could receive medical clearance and secure sponsorship from an American citizen; and

WHEREAS, The Paul family's sponsor to the United States of America was an army colonel from Texas; and

WHEREAS, The family traveled to Texas in 1950 and discovered that the sponsoring colonel intended to exploit the family for free agricultural work on a chicken farm; and

WHEREAS, After six months of this horrific experience, a Polish-American priest from the community came to the family's rescue by helping them escape from the Texas farm under cover of darkness; and

WHEREAS, A cousin living in Chicago, whom they had never met, obtained a taxi to meet them at the station and helped Alfred's father secure housing in the Wicker Park neighborhood and a job in a local factory; and

WHEREAS, At age seven, Alfred began attending the local Catholic grade school, where the nuns helped him learn English for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Alfred graduated from Holy Trinity High School, and then became a student at DePaul University, where he participated in the ROTC program, became a naturalized citizen, and graduated with a degree in history; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Alfred served in the army for almost three years during the Vietnam War era, where he was assigned to one of the most desolate military posts on earth, Murphy Dome Air Force Station in northern Alaska where the temperatures dipped to glacial levels as low as -71° Fahrenheit; and

WHEREAS, After being discharged with the rank of First Lieutenant, Alfred began working at the federal courthouse in Chicago as a clerk for a Bankruptcy Referee; and

WHEREAS, Alfred began attending Chicago-Kent Law School at night; and

WHEREAS, During law school, he married Mary McCue, and the couple has been together for over 50 years; and

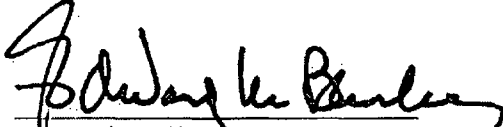
WHEREAS, Alfred and Mary's son, Danny, was born in 1979, and was quickly diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, a condition which renders him a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, After a few years of working for a small law firm and handling personal injury litigation for the Chicago Transit Authority, Alfred was appointed Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1986; and

WHEREAS, The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Alfred serve as an example to all; 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 congratulate Alfred on 36 years of outstanding service as a trusted member of the Judiciary in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Alfred along with the congratulations and best wishes of the City of Chicago, and be it further resolved, that November 11, 2023 be declared Alfred P. Paul Day in the City of Chicago.


Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward