



Office of the Chicago City
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R2012-311

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	3/14/2012
Sponsor(s):	Thompson, Joann (16)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Joe Furguson
Committee(s) Assignment:	

SALUTE TO JOE FERGUSON

WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson, an outstanding citizen and member of his community, is celebrating his retirement after 31 years of a labor of love producing the Joe Ferguson Dusty Steppers Sets; and

WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson was born in 1944 in Sanford, Florida and, at the age of 12, he moved to Chicago. After completing high school, he started the "Joe Ferguson and the VBT Band" in which he was the bass guitarist. Throughout the years, his travels took him to Los Angeles, New York, Florida, Chicago, as well as many areas in the south where he served as a road manager and back up guitarist to artists such as Walter Jackson, Johnny Williams, Tyrone Davis and JJ Barnes. In various recordings, he played backup guitar for Ruby Andrews and the Chi-Lites as well as Gladys Knight & The Pips. He was also able to perform on several occasions at the old Regal Theatre on 47th and King Dr.; and

WHEREAS, On January 21, 1981 Joe began JF Productions and produced the first Joe Ferguson Dusty Steppers Set at the legendary Grand Ballroom on Cottage Grove Ave. in Chicago. He was inspired by Richard Pegue's annual Dusty Records Convention. The first night there were more than 600 "boppers and walkers" who attended the event. In 1984, Joe began to make video recordings of his sets. The last set he taped was on January 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Aside from his musical life, Joe Ferguson was also family oriented. He has two daughters, Nicole and Kathy Ferguson as well as eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His aunt Josephine Cook has been a mentor to Joe and helped guide him through most of his endeavors. In addition to music, he enjoys watching sports, shooting pool, and remodeling buildings. Joe recently established JF Carpentry where he performs home improvements; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable JoAnn Thompson, Alderman of the 16th Ward, has informed this august body of Joe Ferguson's significant milestone, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this 14th Day of March, 2012 AD, do hereby salute the success and dedication of Joe Ferguson and express our very best wishes for his continued success in any and all future endeavors he may wish to undertake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Joe Ferguson.

JOANN THOMPSON
Alderman – 16th Ward

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