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R2012-379

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	4/18/2012
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Harris, Michelle A. (8)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Tribute to late Reverend Doctor Addie Wyatt
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

### **Tribute to Reverend Doctor Addie Wyatt**

WHEREAS, In His Infinite Wisdom, Almighty God has granted Reverend Doctor Addie Wyatt, a legendary spiritual leader and iconic civil rights advocate, eternal rest on March 28, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Addie Loraine Cameron was born to Ambrose and Maggie Cameron in Brookhaven, Mississippi on March 8<sup>th</sup> of 1926. Addie was the second child to this then family of four. Her mother worked as a teacher and her father was a tailor in a pressing shop. They soon moved to Chicago in 1930 the peak of the Great Depression. They eventually found a home and settled on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Bronzeville neighborhood. By this time, six more children were added to the family. Addie attended Forestville and Felsenthal elementary schools as an adolescent; and

WHEREAS, Addie accepted Christ at an early age. She began playing the piano for her church choir at Langley Avenue Church of God and took on the great responsibility of taking care of her brothers and sisters while her parents worked. She was a dedicated student at DuSable High School where she continued to participate in many clubs and pave the way to a great future for herself. During these years she met the love of her life, Claude S. Wyatt, Junior and married him. Later that year after she married she gave birth to their first child Renaldo Wyatt, two years later Addie was blessed with a second son Claude Wyatt III. Addie made a sacrifice and left high school to raise her children but still showed determination by finishing high school at Central YMCA school where she took additional adult courses to better herself; and

WHEREAS, From 1941 to 1954, Reverend Doctor Addie L. Wyatt was employed in the meat packing industry. As a result of her experiences there, she became increasingly involved with her union's activities and eventually served for the next 30 years in various capacities with AFL-CIO affiliated unions. When she retired in 1984, figure in the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. In 1974, Wyatt was a founder the Coalition of Labor Union Women. When she was appointed as the international vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers in 1976, she was the first African American woman to achieve an executive level leadership position in an international union; and

WHEREAS, In her spare time, Addie Wyatt was very dedicated to her spiritual side. She sang and directed the choir at many churches and led a gospel group called the "Wyatt Singers" that performed around the city and recorded several songs. During this era of her life, she even sang with the renowned Mahalia Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Addie and Claude Wyatt took on the task of raising her 5 siblings after her mother passed in 1944. The family moved to the Altgeld Gardens housing project where Addie quickly assumed a large role as a community activist. She wanted to make a better community for her siblings and children and formed a singing group for the youth called the Wyatt Choral Assembly; and

WHEREAS, After forming the group and leaving her legacy at Altgeld Gardens Addie and her family moved in 1955. That same year, Addie and Claude were blessed enough to found Vernon Park Church, a church that was truly theirs. Addie served as choir director, minister of music, and co-pastor. Reverend Doctor Addie Wyatt and her husband also worked closely with Martin Luther King Junior during this time. Addie participated in marches in Selma, Alabama, Washington, D.C. and here in this city. The Wyatt's were founders of Operation Breadbasket as well as founders and board members of operation P.U.S.H.;

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Addie L. Wyatt was noted for her groundbreaking work in women's rights on the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equal Pay for Equal Work campaign. She was appointed by Eleanor Roosevelt to serve on President John F. Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women. She was on the cover of Time Magazine in 1975 as one of 12 Women of the Year and had the same honor bestowed upon her by the Ladies Home Journal in 1977. Reverend Dr. Addie L. Wyatt was a founding member of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Coalition of Labor Union Woman (CLUW). At the CLUW's founding meeting in 1997, she delivered the keynote address to more than 3,200 participants, and remained active to the day of her death. President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the International Women's Commission and she was selected to address more than 20,000 women during the American Women's Conference in Houston, Texas; and

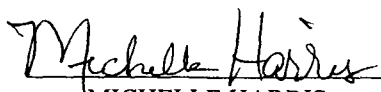
WHEREAS, Addie Wyatt received numerous awards and honors, including: Woman of the Year in 1975 for the TIME Magazine, and in 1977 from Ladies' Home Journal. She was one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Outstanding Black Americans, 1981-1984, an Image Award from the League of Black Women, and a street dedication in 1993 in honor of her and her husband. Wyatt earned an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana in 1976, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Columbia College in Chicago in 1978 and additional honorary degrees from North Park Seminary in this city, and the Chicago Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Addie L Wyatt has left behind a powerful legacy and nothing but wonderful memories to her family, congregation, and community. She was full of ambition that led her to success. It was her advocacy that paved the way for African Americans and women everywhere. She was a true pioneer for human rights. Reverend Addie L Wyatt is preceded in death by her father, mother, and husband but her dreams will live on through not only her children but also through the thousands she has inspired; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Michelle Harris, Alderman of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, has informed this august body of the passing of Reverend Doctor Addie L. Wyatt; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2012 AD, do hereby express our sincerest sorrow upon learning of the passing of this remarkable citizen and extend our deepest condolence to her family and all those whose lives she touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Addie L. Wyatt.

  
MICHELLE HARRIS  
Alderman - 8<sup>th</sup> Ward

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