



Office of the Chicago City  
Clerk



R2012-436

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 4/18/2012  
**Sponsor(s):** Cochran, Willie (20)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Tribute to late Elizabeth Jackson  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH JACKSON

WHEREAS, On March, 27, 2012, in His Infinite Wisdom, Almighty God granted eternal peace to Elizabeth Jackson, an outstanding citizen and member of her community; and

WHEREAS, On December 25, 1918 Reverend. John McKnight and his wife Fannie McKnight welcomed their only child Elizabeth Jackson into the world. Fannie McKnight gave birth to Elizabeth in Shelby, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, The McKnight family moved to this city's South Side in 1924 for better opportunities. Elizabeth attended the neighborhood Chicago Public Schools, graduating from DuSable High School and furthering her education at Wilson Junior College. She studied the Burroughs Accounting and Bookkeeping System and attended Cortez Peter's Business College; and

WHEREAS, Education and religion were very important things to the McKnights. The Bible was read daily in the McKnight home and cherished very dearly. Elizabeth accepted Christ at a very young age; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth met the man of her dreams, Robert Jackson. They soon they professed their love for each other, beginning a life-long marriage and commitment to one another. Their union was blessed with two sons. Tragedy struck and her husband passed, forcing Elizabeth to raise her children as a single mother. This only made her a stronger woman with an even closer relationship with God; and

WHEREAS, As a single mother, Elizabeth only wanted the best for her children. She raised her children in the strict environment that she was raised in, wanting nothing more than for her children to succeed. Elizabeth supported her family by working at the Campbell Soup Company. She demonstrated so much trust and ambition at her job that she worked her way up to the front office and eventually retired as Secretary/Treasurer of the Local 194 credit union; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jackson was also a church activist. She was the church clerk for 54 years at Lilydale First Baptist Church and had a beautiful soprano voice that all loved. She donated her amazing voice to the Lilydale Sanctuary Choir and The Golden Agers Auxiliary Choir as a lead singer as well as singing with the Mabel Brantley Singers, a group consisting of her good friends Marietta Seabee, Mary Jane Campbell, and Mabel Brantley playing the piano. The group was formed to raise money to help pay off the mortgage for Lilydale First Baptist Church in Chicago from 1972 until the death of Mrs. Brantley. The accomplished group held "Christmas in July" parties that helped raise over \$12,000.00. Elizabeth adored working with young children, teaching and coordinating Vacation Bible School and supporting the Sunshine Band, her greatest joy. She made sure they received the financial support they needed and occasionally entertained the children in her backyard; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jackson became affectionately known as "Big Mama" by her family and friends. She is described as a woman that was always there to help people, give her criticism and walk with them through their tough times. Her family viewed her as a true blessing; and

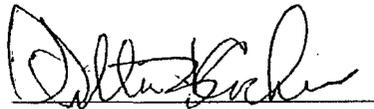
WHEREAS, Elizabeth Jackson transitioned peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at Belhaven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Chicago. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert Jackson and her granddaughter Deborah Jackson; and

WHEREAS, She is survived by her sons Robert Jackson, Jr. and Stanley Jackson, four grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, three great- great grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable, Willie B Cochran, Alderman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ward, has apprised this august body of the passing of Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City of Chicago City Council, assembled on this eighteenth day of April, 2012 AD, do hereby express our sincere sorrow of the passing of Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, and extend our deepest condolences 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 Elizabeth Jackson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willie B. Cochran", written over a horizontal line.

WILLIE B. COCHRAN  
Alderman - 20<sup>th</sup> Ward