



City of Chicago



R2021-1134

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 10/25/2021

Sponsor(s): Burke (14)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Richard L. Duchossois on 100th birthday

Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Richard L. Duchossois celebrates another year of life at 100 years of age including a lifetime of achievements; and

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

WHEREAS, Richard was born to Alphonse Christopher and Erna (Hessler) Duchossois in Chicago on October 7, 1921; and

WHEREAS, Richard graduated from Morgan Park Military Academy and attended Washington and Lee University before entering active military service in 1942 during World War II; and

WHEREAS, He served in five European campaigns including Normandy where he was a commander with the 610th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and served as the military governor for the region of Eichstatt, and was promoted to the rank of Major before he was discharged from active duty in 1946; and

WHEREAS, During his military service, Richard was cited for bravery receiving various medals, including a Purple Heart for his injuries in combat at the Moselle River and two Bronze Stars; and

WHEREAS, After World War II Richard married his high school sweetheart, Beverly Thrall and joined the Thrall Car Manufacturing Company ("Thrall"), and became its CEO in 1952; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, as Chairman of the Duchossois Group, an investment company, Richard purchased Arlington Park Race Track; and

WHEREAS, Richard also owned Des Moines TV Station KDSM-TV (formerly KCBRTV) from 1983 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Arlington Park merged with Churchill Downs Incorporated, where the Duchossois Group was awarded several seats on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Richard serves as a director of TCMC, Inc., the Emirates World Series of Racing, and the Thoroughbred Racing Association; and

WHEREAS, Richard's awards include the 1986 American Jockey Club's Gold Medal, the 1988 Special Sovereign Award from the Jockey Club of Canada, and Lord Derby Award for Meritorious Service to Racing from the National Turf Writers Association, the 2003 Eclipse Award of Merit, and in 2020 Richard was inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, and that same year Richard was voted into the

National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame as one of its esteemed Pillars of the Turf; and

WHEREAS, With his second wife, Mary Judith Duchossois they received the Sword of Loyola award from Loyola University Chicago for their philanthropy in 2014; and

WHEREAS, In May 2017, the Duchossois family announced a gift to the University of Chicago Medicine of \$100 million, including \$50 million from the Duchossois Family Foundation and \$50 million from Janet and Craig Duchossois; and


WHEREAS, In October 2017, UChicago Medicine celebrated the opening of the Duchossois Family Institute; and

WHEREAS, The relationship between The Duchossois Family Foundation and UChicago Medicine spans over 40 years, inspired by the care that matriarch Beverly Thrall Duchossois received when she was treated for cancer in the late 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Richard brings honor to his children, Kimberly, the late R. Bruce, Craig, and Dayle; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this 25th day of October, 2021, do hereby congratulate Richard L. Duchossois for celebrating his 100th birthday and acknowledge his remarkable achievements, and do hereby express our gratitude for his generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Major Duchossois be awarded the Chicago Medal of Merit as well as a suitable copy of this resolution.



Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward