



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** R2022-725, **Version:** 1

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### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, James E. Ryan has been called to eternal life by the wisdom of God at the age of 76; and

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

WHEREAS, Beloved Husband of 54 years to Marie (nee Pahls), Loving Father of John (Stacie), Jim (Jennifer), Matthew (Melissa), Amy, the late Patrick (2007) and the late Ann Marie (1997), and Proud Grandfather of Caitlyn, Joey, Sarah, Grace, Emma, Stella, Elly, Sophie, Sam, Michael and Molly, and

WHEREAS, Jim was born in Chicago on February 21, 1946 and grew up in the suburb of Villa Park, IL; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 17 years old, Jim won the middleweight title in the 1963 Chicago Golden Gloves tournament; and

WHEREAS, He attended a Benedictine-run high school, Saint Procopius Academy (now Benet Academy); and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Jim graduated from Saint Procopius College (now Benedictine University), where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science; and

WHEREAS, Jim then went on to Chicago-Kent College of Law where he obtained his J.D. in 1971; and

WHEREAS, After graduating law school, Jim entered the legal profession having found a position with the DuPage County State's Attorney Office and was promoted to first Assistant State's Attorney after three years; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Jim entered the private sector until his run in the 1984 elections as DuPage County State's Attorney winning the election and being reelected in 1988 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as DuPage County State's Attorney, Jim served as President of the Illinois State's Attorney's Association; and

WHEREAS, Jim was elected as the Illinois Attorney General in 1994 and was reelected in 1998 with the endorsement of every major newspaper in the state; and

WHEREAS, Jim's most notable accomplishment as Illinois Attorney General was his \$9.1 billion settlement from tobacco companies; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Jim became the Republican candidate for Governor, but lost in the general elections to Rod Blagojevich; and

WHEREAS, After the 2002 elections, Jim returned to his alma mater, Benedictine University where he was named a Distinguished Fellow and taught Political Science and Criminal Justice courses; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Jim established the Center for Civic Leadership at Benedictine University; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Jim ran again for Governor, but lost in the Republican Primary to State Senator Bill Brady; and

WHEREAS, To his beloved family, James E. Ryan imparts a legacy of faithfulness, service and dignity; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twentieth day of July, 2022, do hereby commemorate James E. Ryan for his grace-filled life and do hereby express our condolences to his family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of James E. Ryan.

Edward M. Burke; Alderman, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward