



Office of the City Clerk

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Final action: 1/15/2020

Title: Tribute to late Reverend Dr. Clay Evans
Sponsors: Lightfoot, Lori E., Harris, Michelle A., Moore, David H.
Indexes: TRIBUTES

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/15/2020	1	City Council	Rules Suspended - Immediate Consideration	
1/15/2020	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

January 15, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Moore and Harris, a resolution honoring the life and memory of Reverend Clay Evans.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly your:

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death on November 27, 2019, at age 94, of the Reverend Doctor Clay Evans, a Baptist pastor, gospel singer, and civil rights leader who founded Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans was born on June 23, 1925, in Brownsville, Tennessee, to Henry Clay and Estanauly Evans. After moving to Chicago in 1945, Reverend Evans attended seminary school at the Chicago Baptist Institute. He later attended the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity School; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1950 and founded Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in September of that year with five other members. In 1959, the Church moved to its current location in Fuller Park; and

WHEREAS, After fifty years of dedicated service, Clay Evans retired as pastor of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in 2000. Following his retirement, Reverend Evans continued to hold an active schedule of ministry and participation in community events; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans joined the Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. in promoting the civil rights movement in Chicago, and helped to found Operation PUSH, an organization dedicated to improving the economic conditions of black communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans served as the founding National Board Chairman of Operation PUSH from 1971 to 1976, later becoming Chairman Emeritus and serving on its board of directors until his death; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans founded the Broadcast Ministers Alliance of Chicago and the African American Religious Connection, and helped to develop and lead Concerned Clergy for a Better Chicago and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., among other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans is responsible for launching the ministerial careers of over ninety people, including the Reverend Mother Consuella York, the first woman to be ordained in the Baptist denomination of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans was a successful gospel artist, having recorded over thirty musical projects, often working in collaboration with the choir of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church led by his sister, Lou Delia Evans-Reid; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans entrusted his archive to the Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center so that all Chicagoans can appreciate his rich legacy of pastoral leadership at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, his engagement with the civil rights movement, and his television, radio, and musical work; and

WHEREAS, A renowned faith leader, civil rights pioneer, and gospel legend, Clay Evans will always be remembered for his indelible impact on the City of Chicago and as a mentor and friend to many; and

WHEREAS, Clay Evans is survived by countless friends and Fellowship members and his beloved wife of seventy-three years, Lutha Mae Hollingshed. Together they had five children, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and raised a nephew as their own; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this fifteenth day of January, 2020, do hereby honor the life and memory of the Reverend Doctor Clay Evans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of the Reverend Doctor Clay, Evans as a token of our honor, gratitude, and utmost respect.

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Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, David Moore
resented by and Michelle Harris

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