



Office of the City Clerk

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Title: Gratitude extended to decorated World War II veteran Louis Zamperini
Sponsors: Emanuel, Rahm
Indexes: COMMENDATIONS & DECLARATIONS
Attachments: 1. R2011-739.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/8/2011	1	City Council	Adopted	Pass
6/8/2011	1	City Council	Rules Suspended - Immediate Consideration	

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO
RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

June 8, 2011

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a congratulatory resolution regarding decorated World War II veteran Louie Zamperini. Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

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st?^-,^ ^^*i;:-^^ MAYOR'RAHM EMANUEL¹ ^

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The ^Members of th s&@hamber are" pleas€dMo|h©nor|dndf« congratulate'Louis Zampenm "a<.true*Amecnan hero and legendary World*War II * vtarSn-fdrhiicoui^^^ \ %

F²- :i-3<=%' f

\ ^ h WHEREAS ^Bprn in Olean New^York m?1917 Mr Zampenm moved with his \ family to Torrance California in, the 1>920s growing up in then-tiny*blue^"eo ar ' % , * Torrance Mr Zampenm struggled?with yduthful misbehavior until he channeled his^-* energy into competitive runnmg^and he went on to set the mterscholastiCfecord,"^ for£the^t^mile₁.and'win aischolarshipjo

the University of Southern California and - C'V
WHEREAS At age 18 Mr Zampenni qualified for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, + p.
Germany where he competed in the 500 meter race and two years later he set the
National collegiate mile record which he held for 15 years and
' WHEREAS-In September of 1941 "Mr Zampenni Unlisted in the United States ! . % ArrnVAir Forces
joined the military as a pilot and was assigned to the 38th Central Postal Directory
heutananf and deployed to Hawaii as a master bombardier and
WHEREAS On May 27 1943 Mr Zampenni and ten other crew members were

Mr Zampenni and Pilot Russ McNamara were the only survivors and - ct, (
WHEREAS Mr Zampenni was killed in action on the 33rd day of May 1945
leaving Messrs Zampenni and Phillips huddled for a total of 47 days adrift in the ocean aboard
a tiny poorly equipped life raft subsisting on what he more than 100 water and the blood of
birds, but they did not kill any of the birds and did not harm the land
somewhere below the raft to hide from enemy bullets &
-st ana <?> jr* Jivi-vW ■ ^v1-«_JS.7>?r * «^ f«f* » tr v*-^ ^ ~»- ^ s** >^ v

WHEREAS After drifting some 2 000 miles west the bullet-riddled raft often washed
ashore on the Marshall Islands where Messrs Zampenni and Phillips were taken prisoner by
the Japanese and *

WHEREAS For 5 months Mr Zampenni was subjected to unspeakable physical
and psychological torture at the hands of Japanese prison guards Beaten starved denied
medical care regularly whipped across the face with a belt buckle and forced to perform
demeaning acts including push-ups atop pits of human excrement the unflinching Mr
Zampenni never gave in to the demands of his captors and his spirit was never broken and"

WHEREAS Liberated from his prison camp Mr Zampenni arrived at Long Beach California
on October 5 1945 where he was promoted to the rank of captain and awarded the
Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster the Philippine
Liberation Medal the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the American Campaign Medal with
L&F stars and *

WHEREAS A recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Azusa Pacific University and
Bryant University Mr Zampenni was honored for his extraordinary sacrifice and resilience
in his hometown where the City's airport and a high school stadium were named in his honor

WHEREAS A highly acclaimed athlete in January 1998 for his 81st birthday Mr Zampenni
a leg in the Olympic Torch relay for the Winter Olympics in Nagano Japan
the entrance plaza at the University of Southern California was named Louis Zampenni
Plaza and in October 2008 he was inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall
of Fame in Chicago and & ^ ■

WHEREAS Mr Zampenni authored two memoirs about his experiences ; and he is also
the subject of a New York Times bestseller biography Unbroken A World War II Story of
Survival Resilience and Redemption written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Laura
Hillman and * - *

WHEREAS A living American legend Mr Zampenni deserves our admiration and respect
for his exceptional resolve unbreakable spirit and proven valor and his many contributions
and service to our Nation are a source of great inspiration to all Chicagoans now therefore

if:
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{ **BE IT RESOLVED** That we the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago assembled this eighth day of June 2011 do hereby express our sincere appreciation to Louis Zamperini for his courageous and extraordinary life service and accomplishments and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Louis Zamperini as a token of our esteem and good wishes