

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, I'd like to extend a happy 50th anniversary and 80th birthdays to Art and Pep, an amazing milestone to be celebrating; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago's LGBTQ+ community would not be where it is now without the two of you. You both are trailblazers of Northalsted; and,

WHEREAS, you opened Sidetrack decades ago as a way to express your love to the LGBTQ+ community, to allow people to love freely and openly; it's been an incredible journey to see that the bar has continued to cultivate those values for generations, and will continue to do so; and,

WHEREAS, Art and Pep, as stewards in the fight for equal rights and marriage equality, as business owners, and beyond--I'm eternally grateful for all the work you've done; and,

WHEREAS, I am especially lucky to be able to call the two of you my friends. I remember so clearly meeting Art for the first time while volunteering for Equality Illinois. Art, you were an amazing resource and mentor for me, and you had a story for every occasion; and,

WHEREAS, My husband and I always look forward to getting together with you two, talking music and politics, and enjoying each other's company; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 13th day of December, 2023 do hereby wish both Art and Pep congratulations on 50 years together and a happy 80th birthday to both; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank both Art and Pep for all they've done for the Northalsted community, helping build it into the thriving and welcoming community it is today, and that hard copies of this resolution will be provided to Art and Pep to honor their legacy and hard-work over these years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Lawson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bennett Lawson
44th Ward