

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROSEDELL CHESTER SR.**

WHEREAS, Rosedell Chester, Sr., beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, was delivered into the hands of the Lord on April 28, 2023 at age 98; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of Rosedell's passing by the Honorable Emma Mitts, Alderman of the 37th Ward; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 1, 1924 to Willie Chester Sr. and Ida Mae Dean, Rosedell was eldest of a twelve children to bless this union; and

WHEREAS, Living nearly a century, Rosedell experienced a variety of life's changes – from traveling by horse and carriage to riding in high-powered Cadillacs, and from calling with a distant yell to dialing by rotary telephones to cellular phones; and

WHEREAS, From an early age, Rosedell felt that he knew God and God knew him and accepted Christ as her personal savior; and

WHEREAS, Known to all as "Mr. Fix-It" because there was no job that he could not do, Rosedell was a resourceful man working as a truck driver, mechanic, and machinist; and

WHEREAS, Rosedell was a hero to some, know to come in guns blazing, which earned him the nickname "Two-Gun Pete"; and

WHEREAS, Rosedell's strong relationship with Christ led him to serve in the United States Navy during World War II, where he completed a tour of duty and received an honorable discharge before he migrated to Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Following his move to Chicago Rosedell met and married Juanita Phinizy, and to this union was born a family of seven children, Lenora Chester, Ida Chester, Rosedell Chester, Jr., Verdell Chester, the late Vershell Vaughn, and Juan and Lashion Chester; and

WHEREAS, Rosedell worked hard to support his family, he worked at Empire Wood Carving Company for over 25 years before retiring and becoming a pillar in the community affectionately known as "Big Daddy," the man with the big gun; and

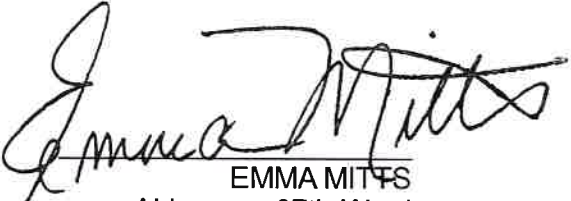
WHEREAS, Often seen as the protector of his neighborhood, Rosedell maintained a watchful eye over the women and children of his neighborhood, and he used his mechanic skills to repair bikes for kids at cost; Rosedell loved talking to and learning from young people as well as sharing the knowledge he gained through is long life that "life is not easy, but you have to make an effort to make it better, and everyone in life deserves a second chance to do and get better"; and

WHEREAS, Rosedell was preceded in death by his wife, Juanita; his parents Willie Chester Sr. and Ida Mae Dean; sisters, Savannah Sprawls and Mattie; brothers, Willie Jr., Eddie, and Joe Nathan; and sidekick, Mack Miller; and

WHEREAS, He leaves to cherish his memory, his five siblings, brother, Jesse Chester (Lillian); sisters, Loutisha Dickson, Regina Williamson, Catherine Dockery, and Etherine Sanders; five children, Lenora, Rosedell Jr. (Cornelius), Ida, Juan, and Lashion; 36 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren; and 103 great-great-grandchildren; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this twenty-first day of June, 2023, do hereby extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rosedell Chester, Sr.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Rosedell Chester, Sr., as a sign of our honor and respect.



EMMA MITTS
Alderman, 37th Ward