

## TRIBUTE TO SOLOMON RONNIE HUMPHRIES

WHEREAS on February 2, 2024, God has granted eternal rest to Solomon Ronnie Humphries, a distinguished educator, a passionate advocate for civil rights, and a beloved member of his community; and

WHEREAS Solomon started his life journey on November 3, 1944, at Provident Hospital on this city's South Side as the first of five children born to Solomon "Sol" Humphries and Bertha Arlene Braxton Humphries. Affectionately known as Ronnie to family and friends, he grew up in the Wentworth Gardens housing projects in a vibrant household shared with his siblings, parents, and Uncle Clyde Humphries; and

WHEREAS Ronnie attended Robert S. Abbott Elementary, displaying remarkable intellect by graduating at the young age of 12. As well as being a fervent enthusiast of baseball and basketball, he possessed an insatiable appetite for knowledge, demonstrated by his voracious reading habits and his family's ownership of a coveted set of encyclopedias, frequently loaned out to neighbors and friends; and

WHEREAS, after graduating Tilden Technical High School at 15 years old, he served his country in the United States Army and held a variety of jobs, including being a mail carrier for the United States Post Office and a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority. He pursued higher education, excelling at Chicago State University where he majored in mathematics education and became a member of the esteemed Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, subsequently embarking on a distinguished career spanning over three decades within the Chicago Public Schools system; and

WHEREAS Ronnie's tenure within the Chicago Public Schools was marked by his exceptional teaching prowess at South Shore High School and Prosser High School, where he also served as the department chair, followed by being appointed to important roles as assistant principal at Einstein Elementary School and various administrative positions across multiple CPS high schools; and

WHEREAS Ronnie demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Civil Rights movement, actively engaging as a junior member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), participating in marches and protests that advocated equal rights for African Americans in areas such as voting, employment, and education; and

WHEREAS Ronnie formed meaningful connections in his personal life, marrying Carol Jean Ware in 1967, with whom he shared a son, Solomon Ronnie Humphries III, and later marrying Delores Rhyne in 1976, with whom he had two children, Brandon Rhyne Humphries and Aisha Briana Humphries; and

WHEREAS the Honorable William E. Hall, Alderman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward has informed this august body of the legacy of dedication, intellect, and activism Ronnie Humphries leaves on the fabric of Chicago, inspiring future generations to strive for excellence and pursue justice; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024, extend our deepest condolences to the family of Solomon Ronnie Humphries and offer our sincerest sympathies to his many friends and all those whose lives he has touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Solomon Ronnie Humphries.

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WILLIAM E. HALL  
Alderman – 6<sup>th</sup> Ward