

SALUTE TO EDISON V. SMILEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS on May 30, 2023, Edison V. Smiley, an outstanding citizen and member of his community, celebrated his 100th birthday thereby joining the burgeoning ranks of Chicago's centenarians; and

WHEREAS Edison's life journey is an inspiration. As a black man born in rural Mississippi, he overcame numerous challenges at a time of significant social and racial inequality. As a youth, he demonstrated exceptional resilience and determination by earning his high school diploma in New Orleans while working various jobs. In June of 1943, Edison joined the Army in service to his country and is now one of the few remaining World War II Veterans; and

WHEREAS following his honorable discharge, Edison relocated to this city, where he pursued his education at the American Academy of Art College and Chicago Teachers College (now Chicago State University) where he honed his skills in law and real estate; and

WHEREAS equipped with the knowledge gained from law courses and possessing a real estate license, Edison played a crucial role in combating segregation and redlining, assisting his family and friends who migrated from Mississippi in purchasing homes on the south side of Chicago; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government recognized Edison V. Smiley's continued pursuit of education through job-related courses as the equivalent of a master's degree, acknowledging his dedication and hard work in assuming new and challenging responsibilities; and

WHEREAS Edison's illustrious career of more than four decades years at the West Side VA Medical Center (now Jesse Brown VA Medical Center) and his role as Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff demonstrated his exceptional commitment to helping others find employment and advance their careers while providing the best possible care for veterans; and

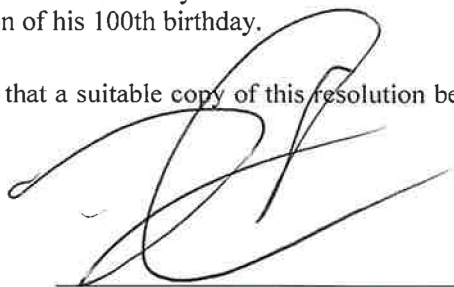
WHEREAS Edison's infectious sense of humor, engaging personality, uplifting words of encouragement, willingness to assist others, and captivating stories have enriched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to cross his path; and

WHEREAS Edison's loving family, including his wife LaRayne along with children Kathy and David, as well as his extended family, friends, and colleagues, deeply cherish his presence in their lives; and

WHEREAS the Honorable William E. Hall, Alderperson of the 6th Ward, has informed this august body of this remarkable citizen's enduring spirit, positive outlook, and unwavering belief; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council who gathered here this 15th Day of November 2023 A.D. do hereby extend its warmest felicitations and heartfelt best wishes to Edison V. Smiley on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Edison V. Smiley



WILLIAM E. HALL
Alderperson – 6th Ward