

A Resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOHN "JACK" W. LEESE, JR.

WHEREAS John W. Leese, Jr. was born on April 26, 1931, and departed this life peacefully at the age of 92 on September 30, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of love and dedication to his family and community; and

WHEREAS Jack was a distinguished graduate of Lane Tech in Chicago and Northwestern University, where he earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees. He served his country with honor and distinction as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. However, it was Jack's passion and dedication to sports, particularly football, that led him to his legendary coaching career, during which he led the East Leyden High School Eagles to multiple Illinois State Championships; and

WHEREAS Jack Leese's coaching career was marked by exceptional achievements, including an impressive 98-29-4 record, highlighted by perfect 8-0 seasons in 1971 and 1972, and an outstandingly perfect 13-0 Class 5A state championship season in 1977. The East Leyden High School community mourns the loss of a coaching legend who had such a tremendous positive effect on the school and its alumni as a dedicated teacher; and

WHEREAS Jack Leese's unwavering commitment to athletics and sportsmanship earned him numerous awards and recognition, including his recent induction into the Hall of Fame for the 6th time, acknowledging his leadership and dedication. His impact extended beyond the football field, as he also served as a wrestling official and lifelong booster for East Leyden High School, leaving an indelible mark on the athletic community; and

WHEREAS Jack Leese was the beloved husband of Georgia Lewis Leese, a loving father to Stephanie Leese Emrich and the late Karen Miller, a fond grandfather to TJ Miller and Sara Miller Poulsen, and a cherished great-grandfather to Grayson and Magnolia Miller, as well as a step-grandfather to Charles Emrich and Parker. Jack's family also included his loyal companion, Toby, the family dog, who brought immense joy to their lives for nearly 16 years; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 1st Day of September 2023, extend our most heartfelt sympathies to the family and numerous friends of Jack Leese as well as express our sincere condolences to the East Leyden High School community as well as all the many whose lives he touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of John W. Leese, Jr.

BENNETT R. LAWSON
Alderman – 44th Ward