

# A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. EMIEL HAMBERLIN

**WHEREAS**, It is with great sadness that the members of this Chamber have been informed of the passing of Dr. Emiel Hamberlin on September 5, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Emiel Hamilton was born on November 8, 1939, in Fayette, Mississippi to the parents of Emiel and Douglas (Olga) Hamberlin alongside six siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, As a young child, Emiel was an enthusiastic learner. He was fascinated with science and was an advocate reader and enjoyed caring for animals. While attending school in his formative years, Emiel would strive for excellence often telling his beloved "Ms. Minnie", "I'm going to be the valedictorian of the class..." and indeed he was; and

**WHEREAS**, After attending Alcorn State University in 1964, Emiel continued his love learning, pursuing higher education. During his time at Alcorn, he became a member of Omega Psi Phi and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in biology. He also achieved a master's degree in vocational education (Ed. D) in 1978 at the University of Illinois in Champaign and later a doctoral degree (PhD) in horticulture in 1982 at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Emiel later received a degree in Advanced Studies at Northwestern University in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Emiel gave his life to Christ at an early age. After graduating from college, Emiel moved to Chicago and joined Liberty Baptist Church making it his church home. Emiel was a very active member where he became a deacon and trustee; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout his 40-year teaching career at Du Sable High School, Emiel valued education. He believed that education was the key to upward mobility and placed a strong emphasis on his students receiving the best education possible. Emiel believed that education should be fair and equitable and always tried to meet his students' individual needs often being known to say "I'm your educational physician"; and

**WHEREAS**, Emiel thought that education should not only take place in the classroom, but also outside of the classroom as well believing learning was an active process. Whether it was exploring nature, visiting museums, going on various field trips engaging in hands-on activities, Emiel ensured experiences for his students that not only had a profound effect on them also on himself. He ensured that each of his students maximized learning opportunities and encouraged and assisted many of them in attending and graduating from colleges and prestigious universities; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout Emiel's educational career, he won many academic/special recognition awards including the Golden Apple Teacher Award as an extraordinary instructor (1996), Kohl Family Foundation (1992), Citizens Schools Committee School Improvement Award (1990), Who's Who Among Black Americans (1988), Newsweek Magazine, Inc. (1986), City of Chicago Harold Washington Horticulture (1986), Ora Higgins Youth Foundation Community Service (1985), State of Illinois Master Teacher Award (1980), Will/Cook County Conservation Award (1978), State of Illinois-Those Who Excel Teacher of the Year (1977), featured on ABC "20/20 with Hugh Downs"

as an extraordinary instructor (1977), Professional Personnel Director Environmental Educator (1975), Outstanding Secondary Educator of America (1974), the City of Chicago Teacher of the Year (1971), and an award from Harold Washington Cultural Center, Educational Impact Committed to: Children, Community and Culture (2022). Emiel was also featured in the book; *"America Behind the Colored Lines"* by Henry Louis Gates (2004); and

**Whereas**, Emiel loved his "Ms. Minnie" and Ms. Minnie loved her Emiel, having met in Mississippi at the age of 8 years-old and intuitively knowing that they were meant for each other. They were married in 1965 and had two children, Emiel Hamberlin III (Emiel Hamberlin IV and Kenneth) of Atlanta, GA. and Mark Hamberlin (Angela and Jordan) of Chicago, IL. They had fifty-nine truly joyful years of the deepest love, happiest marriage and truest partnership that one could ever imagine; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered here in assembly this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2024 A.D., do hereby honor the life and service of Dr. Emiel Hamberlin. His remarkable contributions to education, numerous accolades, and his dedication to community service and his fraternity exemplify his commitment to excellence and positive impact on society. His legacy will continue to inspire and influence future generations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family of Dr. Emiel Hamberlin.



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Pat Dowell

Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward