

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Pinkey, was born in Chicago, Illinois in the Bronzeville Community, September 15, 1935. He graduated from Tilden High School in 1954. He joined the U.S. Navy and served for eight years as a Hospital Corpsman

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney, After serving in the U.S. Navy he became a freelance makeup artist and secured a position with Revlon in 1973 as a Marketing Manager. In 1977 he became the Director of Marketing for Johnson Products. In 1980 he took a position as Director of Public Information for the Chicago Department of Human services

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney, developed a love of the sea at an early age. Throughout his careers Captain Pinkney passion for sailing never weaned. He sailed around the Great Lakes and the oceans for over 30 years. In 1986 he became a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Master of Steam, Power and Sails Vessels.

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney, embarked upon a solo trip around the world in 1990, for 22 months traveling 27,000 miles on his cutter, “The Commitment”. He was the first black man to solo circumnavigate the world via Cape Horn. He shared his journey around the world with 30,000 children in the Chicago Public Schools and the Boston School System. His voyage ended in Boston MA, June 9, 1992.

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney and his crew set out on the vessel “Sortilege” to retrace the Middle Passage slave trade. He teamed up with PBS and several corporations to create a television special. From 2000 to 2003, he was the first Captain of the replica schooner Amistad.

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney was the author of the autobiography *As Long as It Takes* (2006), which won the John Southam Award, and two children’s books: *Captain Bill Pinkney’s Journey* (1994) and *Sailing Commitment Around the World* (2022). The 1994 documentary *The Incredible Voyage of Bill Pinkney* received a George Foster Peabody Award.

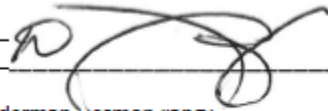
WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. He was recognized by President George H. W. Bush; Lord Mayor of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; the Premier and President of Bermuda; and Senators Paul Simon, John Kerry, and Ted Kennedy, who read an account of his voyage into the record of the 102nd Congress; and received the Illinois Governor’s Distinguished Achievement Award. Pinkney also was honored as the Chicago Yacht Club’s Yachtsman of the Year in 1992 and *Chicago* magazine named him a Chicagoan of the Year in 1999. He was inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 and received the Mystic Seaport Museum’s America and the Sea Award in 2022. Pinkney held honorary degrees from Becker College, Southern Connecticut State University, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

WHEREAS, Captain William “Bill” Pinkney was a husband, father, and grandfather, mentor, motivator and great inspiration to many. He passed away on August 31, 2023 leaving a wonderful legacy.

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that we, Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this 20th day of March 2024 do hereby honor the service of **Captain William “Bill” Pickney**, and extend our sincere congratulations for his service to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED those suitable copies of this Resolution be presented to the family of **Captain William “Bill” Pickney** as a sign of our good wishes.

By: 

Alderman Desmond Vancy
Fifth Ward