



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY MAGDALENE HOLCOMB ON THE OCCASION OF HER 97TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Mary Magdalene Holcomb was born October 10, 1926, in D'Lo, Mississippi, to the parents of Willie and Linnie Barnes; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holcomb's mother and father did grueling work as field hands picking cotton in the 1930's. Tragically, her father died of heat stroke when she was 13 years old; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holcomb's mother, Ma Linnie, re-married to Mr. James Burrows. Mrs. Holcomb had 4 siblings, Mr. Estus Barnes, Mrs. Gertrude Stenhouse, Mr. Lonnie Barnes, and Mrs. Gertis Anderson; and,

WHEREAS, Mary Magdalene Holcomb met and married Herbert Holcomb in her hometown of D'Lo, Mississippi in 1940 while he was on leave from the U.S. Army. She then moved to Oak Grove, Louisiana until he finished his tour of duty with the military in World War II. They later migrated to Chicago, to be near other family and friends; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holcomb is a woman of faith and was baptized at the age of 13 while living in D'Lo, Mississippi. When she moved to Chicago, she joined the Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Little and has remained a lifelong faithful member of the church. She has a favorite scripture, Psalms 34, that she can still recite from memory to this day; and,

WHEREAS, Mary Holcomb was a full-time mother and homemaker while raising her children. Following the death of her husband, she worked various jobs including as a nurse's aide until she retired in 1990 from Oak Park Oasis Skilled Nursing Facility; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holcomb is the mother of eight children Eloise Betty Jefferson, Herbert Holcomb Jr., William Holcomb, Sherry Smith, Mary Holcomb, Billy Holcomb, Bessie Holcomb, and Patricia Huggins. Being the sole surviving child to Mary, Patricia who now resides in Texas travels regularly and faithfully to Chicago to care for her mother. Mary Holcomb is the grandmother of 22 grandchildren including Lynne Turner, Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, 50 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren. She has long enjoyed large gatherings for holidays and Sunday dinners with her family, siblings, and in-laws; and,

WHEREAS, Mary Holcomb has been a proud resident of Austin for the last 53 years. She loves her family, the community of Austin, and Cook County District 1 and has gained lifelong neighbors and friends. In March of 2023, Mary moved to a senior residence in Orland Park, located in the district of Commissioner Sean Morrison, as she embraced the next stage of being a senior citizen. Mary loves car rides, desserts, and looks forward to every holiday to celebrate with her daughter Patricia and granddaughter Lynne.; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County, does hereby thank Mrs. Mary Holcomb for her life of faithful service and wishes her many blessings for her 97th birthday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be tendered to Mrs. Holcomb, as a token of the esteem in which she is held by the President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.