



1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Earl L. Neal, the legendary condemnation lawyer who served as trusted confidant to Mayors' Daley, Bilandic, Byrne, Washington, Sawyer, and Daley passed away February 13, 2005; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Earl Neal was a giant of the legal profession, an outstanding educational and civic leader, and a friend and counselor to every Chicago mayor of the last 50 years; he could be counted on to provide wise guidance and leadership; Chicago is a better city because of Earl Neal's contributions in so many areas of its civic life; and

7

8

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Though they never bear his name, just about every major public works project built in Chicago in the last 50 years - including the Dan Ryan Expressway, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the United Center, U.S. Cellular Field, the Midway Airport expansion, and the current effort to expand O'Hare - could not have happened without Earl Neal quarterbacking the sometimes unenviable task of clearing a path; and

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, The son of Chicago attorney Earl James Neal and Evelyn Neal, a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, Earl Langdon Neal was born in Chicago on April 16, 1928; he graduated from Englewood High School in 1945 and received his B.A. from the University of Illinois in 1949 and his J.D. from Michigan Law School in 1952; and

21

22

23

24

25

26

WHEREAS, Following his graduation from law school, Earl Neal served briefly in the U.S. Army; in 1955, he joined his father's law firm, Neal & Neal; in 1960, Mr. Neal began working with the Chicago city government and later that year was appointed assistant corporation counsel; in 1962, he accepted the responsibility as principal of his father's law firm after

27

28

29

30

31

1 his father was appointed judge; in 1968, he formed his own
2 firm, Earl L. Neal and Associates, and continued to handle
3 trial work for the City of Chicago and other public agencies;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1975, he was elected President of the
6 University of Illinois Board of Trustees; his election made him
7 the first African-American trustee in the United States; in
8 1995, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed him Chairman of the
9 Chicago/Gary Regional Airport Authority; and

10 WHEREAS, He was the recipient of a host of honors and
11 awards, including the Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award, the
12 Justice John Paul Stevens Award, and the Defender of Justice
13 Award; his community work included membership in the Chicago
14 Urban League, the NAACP, and co-chairmanship of the Teachers
15 Academy for Mathematics and Science; and

16 WHEREAS, He had a breath of quality so rarely possessed by
17 one individual; he epitomized the qualities of a gentleman;
18 humor, principal, courage and compassion, intelligence and
19 humility, and love for his fellow human beings; he loved the
20 City of Chicago and its citizens and will be remembered for
21 what "he gave back" to others who followed; and

22 WHEREAS, He married Isobel Hoskins Neal on September 24,
23 1955 and shared his life with his partner for 49 years; his
24 son, Langdon Neal, serves as chairman of the Chicago Board of
25 Election Commissioners; and

26 WHEREAS, He spent his leisure time yachting from Florida to
27 the Caribbean to the Carolinas and Lake Michigan and doting on
28 his four grandchildren; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Earl L. Neal and extend our sincerest condolences to his
2 family, friends, and community; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
5 sympathy.