

BY ALDS. PEREZ, PRATT, STAMPER, CHAMBERS, COGGS, BAUMAN, WESTMORELAND, ZAMARRIPA, BROWER, MOORE, TAYLOR, AND SPIKER

Resolution honoring the life and legacy of Jeffrey “Duke” Roufus.

WHEREAS,

JEFFREY “DUKE” ROUFUS

world champion kickboxer, respected mixed martial arts coach, and founder of Milwaukee’s Roufusport Martial Arts Academy, passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 16, 2025, at the age of 55, and a celebration of life event was held on October 26, 2025 at The Eagles Club Grand Ballroom, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave.; and

WHEREAS, *Jeffrey “Duke” Roufus started martial arts training when he was four years old, gaining the self-control, tenacity, and enthusiasm that would enable him to win four world titles as a kickboxer and compete under organizations like the W.K.A., W.A.K.O., W.K.B.A., and K.I.C.K.; and*

WHEREAS, *Duke Roufus established Roufusport Martial Arts Academy in Milwaukee after his successful professional career, turning it into one of the most prestigious mixed martial arts gyms in the country, renowned for training both world champions and regular athletes in a friendly and orderly setting; and*

WHEREAS, *Duke Roufus produced many notable fighters under his tutelage, including former UFC Lightweight Champion Anthony Pettis, Bellator Bantamweight Champion Sergio Pettis, and UFC Welterweight Champion Tyron Woodley, and all of whom praised Duke as a mentor and innovator whose impact extended far beyond the cage; and*

WHEREAS, *Jeffrey “Duke” Roufus is remembered for his athletic accomplishments, his revolutionary influence on martial arts, and the motivation he gave to innumerable athletes, students, and members of the Milwaukee community; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Jeffrey “Duke” Roufus and mourns the passing of this accomplished and honorable man; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Jeffrey “Duke” Roufus.*

Introduced by Common Council members José G. Pérez, JoCasta Zamarripa, Andrea M. Pratt, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark Chambers, Jr., Milele A. Coggs, Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, Sharlen P. Moore, Alex Brower, Larresa Taylor and Scott Spiker and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on November 4, 2025.