

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

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Donald F. “Don” Richards.

WHEREAS,

DONALD F. “DON” RICHARDS

passed from this life on December 26, 2025 at the age of 89, and a funeral Mass was held on January 8, 2026 at Avina of Milwaukee Chapel (formerly Alexian Village), 9301 N. 76th St.; and

WHEREAS, *Donald F. “Don” Richards was born in Waukesha in 1936, and before becoming the Alderman for Milwaukee’s 9th District, he was a priest in the Milwaukee Archdiocese from 1963-1982, participated in Milwaukee’s open housing marches in the 1960s, and attended the St. Francis Seminary and Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and also served as an economic development specialist with the Northwest Side Community Development Corp.; and*

WHEREAS, *Don was elected 9th District Alderman in 1988 and was a chair and member of many Common Council committees, including the Judiciary and Legislation Committee, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, the Housing Authority and City Records Committee, and in 1998 he began teaching classes at Alverno College on local government, and decided not to run for re-election for health reasons, and retired in 2004; and*

WHEREAS, *Don was a staunch supporter of human and civil rights, and opposed freeway expansion plans, charter schools, the Miller Park stadium subsidy, Walmart’s expansion into Milwaukee, was an advocate for restraint after 9/11, favored gun control as well as increasing the state’s minimum wage and higher wages for low-paid city contractors; and*

WHEREAS, *Don was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dolores “Dee” Richards, his parents, Gregor and Rose Richards, and his brothers, Jim Richards and Ed Richards, is survived by his dear brother Bob (Joanne) Richards, and many other loving relatives and friends; 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 Donald F. “Don” Richards 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 Donald F. “Don” Richards.*

Introduced by Common Council members Larresa Taylor, José G. Pérez, Milele A. Coggs, Andrea M. Pratt, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark Chambers, Jr., Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, JoCasta Zamarripa, Alex Brower, Sharlen P. Moore and Scott Spiker and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on January 20, 2026.