

BY THE COMMON COUNCIL

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of John R. Kalwitz.

WHEREAS,

JOHN R. KALWITZ

passed from this life on March 1, 2026, at the age of 84, in Bullhead City, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, *John R. Kalwitz was born on July 7, 1941 in Milwaukee, with roots grounded in the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee where his father was a minister and his mother a Sunday School teacher for more than 60 years, and he attended Rufus King High School, graduating in 1960 (RKHS was deeply embedded in the civic fabric of the city and provided John with an initial network of peers who would later prove invaluable), and he matriculated to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1965, and later attended Marquette University Law School; and*

WHEREAS, *At the remarkably young age of 26, John Kalwitz won election to the Milwaukee Common Council as 2nd District Alderman in 1968 (defeating an established incumbent, James Maslowski), and at 26 John was the youngest Council member in the history of the Milwaukee Common Council; and*

WHEREAS, *John's service on the Common Council spanned a continuous 32 years representing eight distinct terms, and throughout his extensive tenure he steadily transitioned from the position of a young outsider to an institutional insider, accumulating unparalleled institutional memory, procedural expertise, and bureaucratic leverage; and*

WHEREAS, *John successfully served three distinct four-year terms as the President of the Common Council, as the role represented a shift from localized representation of his constituents to systemic leadership, and he also served as Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee, and during his Council Presidency he controlled the Council agendas, exercised his authority to appoint committee chairs, and served as the primary legislative counterbalance to the Mayor's executive authority; and*

WHEREAS, *After 32 years of continuous public service, John R. Kalwitz officially retired from the Milwaukee Common Council in 2000, stepping away from the elected office he dominated for decades, and his departure effectively marked the end of an era in Milwaukee politics, concluding a massive career that astonishingly spanned the federal presidencies of Lyndon B. Johnson through Bill Clinton, and the local mayoralties of Henry Maier through John Norquist; and*

WHEREAS, *John Kalwitz is survived by his beloved wife, Bonnie, daughters Christine (Brian) O'Kelly and Carrie (Eduardo) Teixeira, grandson Brian O'Kelly, and a host of 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 John R. Kalwitz and mourns the passing of this impactful and upstanding man; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of John R. Kalwitz.*

Introduced and approved on June 2, 2026 by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council: José G. Pérez, Mark Chambers, Jr., Andrea M. Pratt, Alex Brower, Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, Milele A. Coggs, DiAndre Jackson, JoCasta Zamarripa, Larresa Taylor, Sharlen P. Moore, Peter Burgelis, Scott Spiker, Marina Dimitrijevic, and Russell W. Stamper, II.