

BY ALDS MURPHY, COGGS, PRATT, STAMPER, ZAMARRIPA, SPIKER, BORKOWSKI, RAINEY, CHAMBERS, BROSTOFF, BAUMAN, WESTMORELAND, TAYLOR, PEREZ

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Chester “Chet” E. Gardeski.

WHEREAS,

CHESTER “CHET” E. GARDESKI

passed from this life on August 13, 2023 at the age of 99 and a funeral service was held on October 18, 2023 at St. Vincent Pallotti Parish, 201 N. 76th St.; and

WHEREAS, *Chester “Chet” Gardeski was born in Hibbing, Minnesota on December 5, 1923 to Bruno and Frances Gardeski, graduated from Boy’s Technical School in Milwaukee and went on to the University of Wisconsin to further his education in Journalism and Business Administration; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1943, Chet entered WWII, enlisting in the U.S Army Air Corps, was promoted to Tech Sergeant, and served as an aircraft mechanic and flight engineer on B-17 Bombers until 1946, and after the war he was involved in flying B-17s to map Europe and Africa (and once survived a midair collision), and from 1947 to 1951 he served in the Wisconsin Air National Guard and then, from 1951-1952 (during the Korean War era) he served in the U.S. Air Force as a senior aircraft maintenance chief; and*

WHEREAS, *On January 3, 1951, Chet married Vera Vespalec, and the couple was married for over 72 years, having four children: Peter, Mark, Gail, and Margaret (Margie); and*

WHEREAS, *Chet served in a variety of positions as a U.S. Government Procurement Representative at the A.C. Spark Plug Division of General Motors where he was, among other things, a Quality Control Representative in the production of missile guidance systems including the Apollo programs, and in 1969 Chet transferred to U.S. Army Recruiting Command where he was Chief Advertising and Sales Promotion Public Information Officer, U.S. Civil Service, until he retired in 1980; and*

WHEREAS, *Chet was a gifted and popular speaker at the EAA Fly-In in Oshkosh, and lectured at various high schools, giving students a chance to hear about the war firsthand, and was an active member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society and the Wauwatosa VFW 1465; and*

WHEREAS, *Chet and Vera were very active members of both St Vincent Pallotti Parish and the Basilica of St. Josaphat Catholic Churches, where Chet often lectured, and at Easter time he would dress as Moses and dramatically recite Moses’ testimony of God’s deliverance found in the Book of Exodus, and his reenactment was in demand at both churches and schools (Moses would be proud!); and*

WHEREAS, *Chet is survived by his beloved wife, Vera, his son Mark, daughters Gail and Margaret, grandson Kevin, great grandsons, Connor and Kaden, and a host of other loving relatives and friends; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Chester “Chet” E. Gardeski, who will be remembered fondly for the selfless commitment and zest for life he so often shared with others, and for his dedicated and distinguished service to his country; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of the resolution be presented to the family of Chester “Chet” E. Gardeski.*

Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Milele A. Coggs, Andrea M. Pratt, Russell W. Stamper, II, JoCasta Zamarripa, Scott Spiker, Mark A. Borkowski, Khalif J. Rainey, Mark Chambers, Jr., Jonathan Brostoff, Robert J. Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, Larresa Taylor, and José G. Pérez and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on October 31, 2023.