

BY ALDS BURGELIS, PRATT, CHAMBERS, BROSTOFF, BAUMAN, WESTMORELAND,
COGGS, ZAMARRIPA, MOORE, PEREZ, SPIKER, STAMPER

Resolution recognizing and congratulating Donna Burkett during Veterans Month

WHEREAS,

DONNA BURKETT

has been recognized during National Veterans and Military Families Month for her contributions to the City of Milwaukee and the LGBTQ+ community; and

***WHEREAS,** Donna Burkett was born in 1946 in Chicago, and moved to the north side of Milwaukee when she was eight years old, graduating from North Division High School and then joining the United States Army; and*

***WHEREAS,** Donna Burkett returned to Milwaukee in 1970 and became an activist following her experiences in the military, marching for open housing and attending Gay People's Union meetings; and*

***WHEREAS,** Donna Burkett and her partner, Manonia Evans, applied for a marriage license in October 1971, yet were denied because of their status as a same sex couple, leading them to file a lawsuit based on a violation of their due process and equal protection of the law under the U.S. Constitution; and*

***WHEREAS,** Donna Burkett's fight for marriage equality for LGBTQ+ people drew national attention, empowering individuals to fight for their marriage rights and eventually leading to Wisconsin's same-sex marriage ban being overturned in 2014, as well as helping set the groundwork for the legalization of same-sex marriage nationally in 2015; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes and commends Donna Burkett this National Veterans and Military Families Month for her dedication to activism in Milwaukee and the LGBTQ+ community, and wishes for her health and success in all future endeavors; and, be it*

***FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Donna Burkett.*

Introduced by Common Council members Peter Burgelis, JoCasta Zamarripa, Andrea M. Pratt, Mark Chambers, Jr., Jonathan Brostoff, Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, Milele A. Coggs, Sharlen P. Moore, José G. Pérez, Scott Spiker, and Russell W. Stamper, II and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on November 6, 2024.