

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

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of James Beckum

WHEREAS,

JAMES BECKUM

passed from this life on November 11, 2024, at the age of 95, and a celebration of his life was held at Greater Galilee Baptist Church, 2432 N. Teutonia Ave., on November 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, *James Beckum was born on February 7, 1929, in Villa Ridge, Illinois and after growing up farming and tending to livestock, he was drafted to the United States Marine Corps in 1952; and*

WHEREAS, *After serving in the Marines, James Beckum utilized his athletic talent to participate in professional baseball, becoming one of the youngest players for the East St. Louis Giants, and sparking a lifelong dedication to the sport and to the young people it could serve; and*

WHEREAS, *James Beckum helped found the Beckum-Stapleton Little League program in 1964, harnessing the power of baseball as a tool to instill discipline, teamwork and leadership in children, and worked tirelessly to provide those opportunities to youth in the Milwaukee area; and*

WHEREAS, *James Beckum, through the Beckum-Stapleton Little League, mentored more than 25,000 youth over several decades, many of whom have gone on to become successful figures in business, politics and professional sports, all carrying with them the lessons of hard work, responsibility and community service instilled by his guidance; and*

WHEREAS, *James Beckum gave six decades of service to the City of Milwaukee and his unwavering commitment to creating safe, positive spaces for youth, and his legacy as a mentor and role model are remembered and continue to inspire future generations of leaders, athletes and community advocates; and*

WHEREAS, *James Beckum was not only dedicated to the Milwaukee community, but he was also deeply committed to his family, who remembers him for his charitable, hard-working, and wise nature; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincerest condolences to the family members and friends of James Beckum and mourns the passing of a pioneer and upstanding man; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of James Beckum.*

Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Andrea M. Pratt, Mark Chambers, Jr., Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, JoCasta Zamarripa, 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 26, 2024.