

BY ALDS. MURPHY, HAMILTON, COGGS, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, SPIKER, PEREZ, LEWIS, RAINEY, JOHNSON, DODD, BAUMAN, DONOVAN

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Edward J. “Ed” Ward, who passed from this life on October 13, 2019.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **EDWARD J. “ED” WARD**

*passed from this life on October 13, 2019, at the age of 74, and services were held for family and friends on October 18, 2019 at the Church of the Gesu, 1145 West Wisconsin Ave.; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Edward J. “Ed” Ward, was regarded as a titan in Irish music and a leading figure in the promotion of Irish culture in North America; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ed Ward was the founder of Celtic/MKE and Milwaukee Irish Fest and was a prominent figure in Irish America, who dedicated his life to the promotion of Irish culture, and transformed the once local level Irish Fest into the greatest celebration of Irish Culture in North America, attracting more than 100,000 attendees annually; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ed Ward was also the founder of the John J. Ward Irish Music Archives, which was founded 27 years ago, and has become the United States’ most important collection of Irish folk music and plays an important role in preserving and transmitting the Irish cultural legacy; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ed Ward’s influence and legacy stretches far beyond Irish Fest and its organization, as he played a role in connecting with and supporting other Irish festivals across America as well as Irish musicians around the world, and he established communications and fostered key relationships to elevate Celtic culture with various entities in the U.S., Ireland, Canada and Scotland; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ed Ward is remembered by his wife Cathy, sons Patrick, Sean (Melissa) and Conor, daughters Caitlin (Jimmy) and Kelly, granddaughter Moira, brother Jack (Margaret), sister Colleen Kennedy (Tom), sister-in-law Cathy, and a host of other beloved family members and friends; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Edward J. “Ed” Ward and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this fine, upstanding man; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Edward J. “Ed” Ward.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Ashanti Hamilton, Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark Borkowski, Scott Spiker, José G. Perez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey, Cavalier Johnson, Nikiya Dodd, Robert Bauman and Robert G. Donovan and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on November 5, 2019.**