

BY ALDS. COGGS, HAMILTON, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, WITKOWSKI, PÉREZ, LEWIS, RAINEY, JOHNSON, DODD

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Robert Howard Oatis Sr. who passed from this life on January 14, 2019.

WHEREAS,

ROBERT HOWARD OATIS SR.

passed from this life at the age of 81 on January 14, 2019 and funeral services were held on, January 20, 2019; and

***WHEREAS,** Robert Howard Oatis Sr. was born the second of three boys on July 18, 1937 to Ira Howard Oatis Jr. and Olivia Washington in Picayune, Mississippi, and lived his childhood in the South, graduating among the first class of JEJ Moore High School in Prince Georges County, Virginia; and*

***WHEREAS,** In January 1960, Robert Howard Oatis Sr. moved to Milwaukee where he received mechanical training from Milwaukee Area Technical College, and began a dedicated 35 - year career at Sears and Roebuck fixing a variety of items from radios and televisions to lawn mowers; and*

***WHEREAS,** Robert Howard Oatis Sr. met Gloria Hawkins in April 1960, and married in September of the same year, having three children together, Glenda, Angela, and Robin; and*

***WHEREAS,** Robert Howard Oatis Sr., affectionately referred to as “Big Rob” by family and friends, an expert repairman and entrepreneur, opened his own repair business named Bob’s T.V., and seemed to be able to repair absolutely anything with duct tape as his favorite resource; and*

***WHEREAS,** Robert Howard Oatis Sr. believed in continued education for himself, his wife, and his family, eventually obtaining his pilot’s license and purchasing his own airplane at a time when many were hesitant to teach African American men to fly, and joined the Tuskegee Airmen’s Negro Airmen International, NAI; and*

***WHEREAS,** Robert Howard Oatis Sr. leaves to cherish his memory his brothers, his former wife and lifelong companion Gloria Oatis, five children, and 10 grandchildren; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Robert Howard Oatis Sr., recognizes his lasting impact on his community, 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 Robert Howard Oatis Sr.

Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, Terry L. Witkowski, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey, Cavalier Johnson and Nikiya Dodd and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on February 5, 2019.