

*BY ALDS. MURPHY, RAINEY, STAMPER, COGGS, HAMILTON, BOHL, BORKOWSKI, WITKOWSKI, PEREZ, LEWIS, JOHNSON*

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Al Siemsen, who passed from this life on February 28, 2017.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **ALBERT SIEMSEN**

*passed from this life at age 87 on February 28, 2017, and services were held for family and friends on April 8, 2017 at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St.; and*

***WHEREAS,** Born in Kansas and raised on a farm during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years, Al Siemsen learned the value of hard work and education at an early age; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen and his wife Betty moved to Milwaukee in 1956, where he began his 35-year teaching position at Custer High School, taught history, a subject he loved, and later developed thought-provoking curriculum as head of the social studies department; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen dedicated his career to advocating for public education and teachers' rights, serving as president of the Milwaukee Teachers Union and on the executive board of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) for many years, and continuing to volunteer at MPS during retirement; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen's daughter Erika accepted the MTEA's Sid Hatch Outstanding School Leader Award on behalf of the family on March 8, 2017, recognizing Al Siemsen's work and advocacy; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen was a beloved part of the Martin Drive neighborhood, where he served as a block watch captain until this year and was known for shoveling the walkways of the entire neighborhood after snowstorms; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen was active in the community, holding leadership roles in the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, the neighborhood coalition Cooperation Westside and many other organizations, participating in rallies and advocating for the civil rights movement and environmental and social justice causes; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 65 years Betty, his children Jolene, Craig and Erika, four grandchildren and a great-grandson; and*

***WHEREAS,** Al Siemsen devoted his career and life to improving his community and promoting empathy and social change; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Al Siemsen, 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 Al Siemsen.*

***Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Khalif J. Rainey, Russell W. Stamper, II, Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Jim Bohl, Mark A. Borkowski, Terry L. Witkowski, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis and Cavalier Johnson and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on March 28, 2017.***