

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

Commendation recognizing Liberace on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

WHEREAS,

LIBERACE

was remembered for his lifetime of musical accomplishments and his many contributions to the City of Milwaukee on the 100th anniversary of his birth on May 16, 2019; and

***WHEREAS,** Liberace (Władziu Valentino Liberace) was born May 16, 1919 in West Allis and began playing piano at four and would go on to become one of the most iconic performers of the 20th Century with the nickname “Mr. Showmanship” because of his flamboyant persona on and off the stage; and*

***WHEREAS,** Liberace began his career in Milwaukee when he received a scholarship to attend the Wisconsin College of Music and played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Pabst Theater at 20 years old ; and*

***WHEREAS,** Liberace became a household name in 1952 with the premiere of “The Liberace Show” which 35 million viewers a week tuned in to see Liberace’s piano skills and he was soon selling out live shows at Madison Square Garden and later established a concert residency in Las Vegas; and*

***WHEREAS,** Liberace was widely known for his music recordings, television and film appearances, especially in Wisconsin where his rendition of “Beer Barrel Polka” is considered Milwaukee’s unofficial song and plays during the 7th inning stretch at Milwaukee Brewers home games; and*

***WHEREAS,** Liberace was recognized with numerous awards throughout his lifetime including Instrumentalist of the Year, Best Dressed Entertainer, Entertainer of the Year, two Emmy Awards, six gold albums, and two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and was listed in The Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s highest paid musician and pianist; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes the life of Liberace, who was beloved by fans all over the world and who greatly influenced American music and culture on the 100th anniversary of his birth; and, be it*

***FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitably engrossed copy of this commendation be presented to the family of Liberace.*

Introduced by Common Council members Mark A. Borkowski, Ashanti Hamilton, Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, 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 May 29, 2019.