

Alderman Michele Smith
2/19/2020

, Dan O'Donnell

Whereas in 1969, Dan O'Donnell became co-owner of Armitage Hardware, a 107 year old business and the heart of the Armitage Avenue business district.

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell is well known for his generous spirit, warm demeanor and willingness to help others with any problem; and,

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell, in his early days on Armitage was sought out by local people down on their luck because he was known to always lend a helping hand; and,

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell in kind, has been an integral part of the residential foundation of Lincoln Park. As he, throughout the years, has provided house accounts to help finance neighbor's home and building renovations in the community.

Whereas, in 1972, Mr. O'Donnell worked with the Latin Kings on the beautification of the Armitage "L" station and commissioned Chicago artist Gary Larson to paint a 20 foot Green Peace mural that can still be seen today; and,

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell, since 1996, has built a strong support system for the 800 to 1,200 Irish J-1 students who visit Chicago each summer, helping them secure housing, find jobs, and provide emergency support when needed. He has worked tirelessly to make their summers fulfilling, safe and memorable and is known across Ireland as the man to see when they arrive; and,

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview for over 40 years, serving as board president and longtime chairman of the annual Kiwanis Peanut Day. He also worked closely with the Logan Square Boys and Girls Club and the Key Clubs of Lincoln Park High School and Lakeview High School to raise funds for Kiwanis and their clubs; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell has been an active member and ardent supporter of the St. Teresa of Avila parish for over 45 years; and,

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell has been a lifelong supporter of neighborhood associations including Armitage Friends & Neighbors, Ranch Triangle Association and North Lakeview Neighbors Association; and

Whereas, Mr. O'Donnell has served on numerous boards including DePaul University President's Board, Sulzer Library, Lakeview Interfaith Brotherhood; and

Whereas Dan is the founder and trustee of the DePaul University Michael Hie Scholarship Fund--which has helped many students fulfill their dreams of graduating college--and the Judy Tuebert Trust Fund, which helped a family pay off their daughters medical bills; and

Whereas Dan's generosity and his compassion for others comes not from a feeling of obligation and duty but from his very being and we are all very grateful to have him in our lives as he celebrates his 80th birthday today.

BE IT RESOLVED, That Alderman Michele Smith, and we, The City Council of the City of Chicago, proclaim this Resolution in honor of Dan O'Donnell, whom we wish a happy birthday, and a grateful thanks for everything he's done for our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution are presented to Dan O'Donnell and his family members as a sign of our respect and gratitude.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michele Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Alderman Michele Smith
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