

RESOLUTION Honoring Harold Allen Ramis

WHEREAS, Harold Allen Ramis, comedy legend and native Chicagoan, passed away on February 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, In honor of the tenth anniversary of his passing, the cast of *Groundhog Day* will join Erica Mann Ramis, Harold's wife, for their first reunion since the film's release, fittingly, on February 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this milestone by the Honorable Brendan Reilly, Alderman of the 42nd Ward; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in Rogers Park, Harold graduated from Senn High School and Washington University in St. Louis, before returning to Chicago and working as a freelance writer for the *Chicago Daily News*, as a writer and editor for *Playboy*, and as a substitute teacher at schools serving Robert Taylor Homes; and

WHEREAS, Moving from the radio waves and the small screen to the silver screen, Harold embarked on a prolific film career, writing, directing, and acting – sometimes all three – in classics such as *Groundhog Day*, *National Lampoon's Animal House*, *Caddyshack*, *Stripes*, *Ghostbusters*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Analyze This*, and, of course, *Groundhog Day*; and

WHEREAS, While many of his films remain comedy classics, *Groundhog Day* in particular would go on to receive widespread popular and critical acclaim, winning the BAFTA Film Award for best original screenplay and being named to the Writers Guild of America's "101 Greatest Screenplays" and the American Film Institute's "100 Funniest Movies"; and

WHEREAS, In addition to winning the BAFTA for *Groundhog Day*, Harold's contributions to comedy have been recognized by the Writers Guild of America, the Chicago Film Critics Association, the Critics' Circle, the New York Film Critics Circle the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, the World Science Fiction Society, and the Academy of Interactive Arts and Science, as well as being awarded honorary Doctorates in the Arts from Columbia College and Washington University; and

WHEREAS, At the height of his success, Harold left Hollywood and returned to the Chicagoland area to raise his family, and gave back to his hometown by serving on the boards of the Goodman Theatre, After School Matters, Facets Multimedia, and the Institute for Psychoanalysis; and

WHEREAS, After a life of playing to the top of his intelligence, Harold Ramis's talent and vision will continue to inspire generations of comedians and writers to find their own voice – as Harold once said: "My characters aren't losers. They're rebels. They win by their refusal to play by everyone else's rules."; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, hereby declare the 2nd day of February, 2024 – *Groundhog Day* – now, forever more, in perpetuity, over and over again, to be "Harold Ramis Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the family Harold Ramis as a sign of our honor and respect.

Bren R

BRENDAN REILLY
Alderman, 42nd Ward