RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City honors United Airlines on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, a milestone marking a century as a leading airline and Chicago's hometown airline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has been notified of this milestone by the Honorable Alderman Matthew J. O'Shea of the 19th Ward and the Honorable Alderman Nicole T. Lee of the 11th Ward; and

WHEREAS, aviation pioneer Walter T. Varney began providing air mail transport service on April 6, 1926, laying one of the foundational pillars of modern commercial air service, and the company that became United Airlines later emerged through the consolidation of Varney Air Service with other early aviation enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Boeing Air Transport, a subsidiary that evolved into the entity that became United Airlines, employed Ellen Church, a licensed pilot and nurse, as a "flying nurse," and in 1930 her creation of the "Sky Girls" – women hired to calm sick and frightened passengers, provide nursing onboard, load luggage, help fuel the plane, and collect tickets – helped establish the role that evolved into the modern flight attendant; and

WHEREAS, United Airlines helped shape modern air travel through early innovations including operation of the Boeing 247 in 1933, which made coast-to-coast service possible in less than 20 hours, the opening of the world's first flight kitchen in 1936, the use of electronic flight simulators in 1954, and the use of an operational jet bridge in 1958; and

WHEREAS, United Airlines also played a major role in expanding commercial aviation through operation of the Boeing 767 and 777, service to all 50 states in 1984 under the moniker "First to Fifty," and partnership with international carriers to create the global alliance now known as Star Alliance, which today has 25 airline members serving more than 190 countries and over 1,100 airports; and

WHEREAS, United Airlines has continued that legacy of innovation in recent years by using 100 percent Sustainable Aviation Fuel in 2021, rolling out Starlink high-speed, low-latency internet service onboard, and becoming the world's largest airline with 1,000 mainline aircraft; and

WHEREAS, as an employer of more than 18,000 people in the Chicagoland area, United Airlines is headquartered in Chicago and has served the City since 1927 operating more than 750 flights at O'Hare including year-round service to destinations such as London, Paris, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Brussels, Munich, Amsterdam, Zurich, São Paulo, Dublin, and Tel Aviv; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby congratulate United Airlines on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and hereby recognize United Airlines as Chicago's hometown airline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to United Airlines as a token of our gratitude for a century of service, innovation, and connection.

NICOLE T. LEE
Alderman, 11th Ward

MATTHEW J. O'SHEA
Alderman, 19th Ward