

Mayoral Proclamation

WHEREAS, Gerald Arthur "Jerry" Ilse was born on July 24, 1931 and was one of seven children of Julia and Arthur Ilse; and

WHEREAS, Jerry received his elementary education in Egan, South Dakota and entered the military service of the Army in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a Corporal during the Korean War, and served as an instructor of heavy artillery and communications. Following his discharge, he earned an engineering degree from M.S.O.E.; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's great intellect lead him down many paths. He took great pride in being a Scout Master for Troop 187, President of 66th School P.T.A. and Lay Leader for Wesley Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's Engineering career began at Woodrow Brixius Inc. and progressed ever upward. He was manager of manufacturing at Seitz Manufacturing and Modern Machine in Cudahy where he was awarded the Governor's award for robotic design; and

WHEREAS, Jerry started his own consulting firm "Great Ideas Inc." Later, he took on the role of Vice President for Custom Products in charge of four manufacturing plants. He taught Engineering at UW-Milwaukee and was a mentor for many future engineers; and

WHEREAS, Jerry retired from UW-Milwaukee in 1996. He enjoyed extensive travel to every state in the U.S. as well as Australia, Germany, Japan, Korea, India, China and Luxembourg. His artistic talents included woodcarving, ice sculpting, carving tree spirits, gardening, and photography. He enjoyed building bird houses, feeders and fountains. He also enjoyed playing chess, cribbage and visiting with his buddy Paul; and


WHEREAS, Jerry's greatest joy of his life was having talks with his son Michael and gardening and watching the news with his daughter Marsha. Gerald is deeply missed by his wife Gladys, the love of his life for 66 years, and his son Michael (Karen) and daughter Marsha. He is also deeply missed by his precious grandchildren Megan (John) Peterson, Jennifer (Bryan) Montgomery, Crystal (Jeremy) Perry, and Morgan (Melissa) Ilse; and by his adored great-grandchildren Leland, Reagan, Olivia, and Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, Jerry's life will be celebrated at a remembrance party on July 24, 2017, the 86th anniversary of his birth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven V. Ponto, Mayor of the City of Brookfield, on behalf of all of the residents of this community, recognize Gerald Arthur "Jerry" Ilse for a full life well lived, and extend best wishes to all those gathered to celebrate his life at his remembrance party.



Signed and sealed this 11th day of July,
Two Thousand and Seventeen.



Steven V. Ponto, MAYOR
City of Brookfield