

**RESOLUTION TO NAME THE PLAYING FIELD AT ECKERSALL STADIUM
AS A POSTHUMOUS HONOR FOR BERNIE O'BRIEN**

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien retired from the Chicago Public Schools in 1976 after dedicating more than 35 years to teaching students and coaching high school football teams; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien believed in sportsmanship and scholarship, while touting educational and family values, and he continued in these beliefs until his death on November 15, 2000 at age 87; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien coached high school football teams at Fenger High School from 1941 to 1944 and served as head coach at Hirsch High School from 1945 to 1951; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien joined the coaching staff at Chicago Vocational High School (CVS) in 1952, assumed the position of head coach in 1957, and served as CVS's head football coach for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien took his CVS teams to eight Prep Bowls and led them to Public League championships from 1963 through 1966, 1968, 1974 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Prep Writers Association named Bernie O'Brien football coach of the year in 1966 and 1974; and

WHEREAS, Bernie O'Brien earned the Distinguished American Award from the Chicago Chapter of the National Football Association, the Chicago Medal of Merit and the Knute Rockne Memorial Trophy, and is honored in the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Chicago Public Schools to posthumously honor Bernie O'Brien through the act of naming the playing field at Eckersall Stadium, where Bernie O'Brien coached the majority of his games while at Chicago Vocational High School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 25th day of April, 2001, do hereby name the playing field at Eckersall Stadium the Bernie O'Brien Field. This resolution is effective immediately upon its adoption.