



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

**BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago takes great pride in honoring the extraordinary contributions and sacrifices of our veterans and community leaders who have dedicated their lives to service both in and out of uniform; and

WHEREAS, Ronald J. Baltierra, born in Chicago and raised in Burbank, Illinois, exemplifies this dedication. Ron volunteered for the draft during the Vietnam Conflict, where he served with honor and distinction as a Pointman and field-trained sniper. Following his honorable military service, Ron Baltierra embarked on a successful career in construction, partnering with David Ramirez for over 28 years.

WHEREAS, Ron has also committed himself to serving fellow veterans through active volunteerism and leadership in organizations such as the Mexican American Veterans Association (MAVA), American Legion Manuel Perez Jr. Post #1017, AMVETS, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); and

WHEREAS, David M. Ramirez, was born in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood to parents from Michoacán, Mexico. Dave served as a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969, where he was responsible for establishing security measures in Vietnam. After his military service, he went on to enjoy a successful career in construction management and architectural engineering, eventually retiring as Vice President and Co-Owner of dr/Balti. Dave has been deeply involved in veterans' advocacy and support, particularly within the Little Village community of Chicago, working tirelessly for the betterment of his fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS, Construction of the Little Village Arch, often referred to as the gateway to the Mexican capital of the Midwest, began in late 1990 and was completed over six months by Balti Contracting Company, under the leadership of David M. Ramirez and Ron Baltierra. The Arch was designed to mirror the classical arched entrances that grace the streets of Mexico. Today, the Arch stands as a landmark, recognized around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Manuel Perez American Legion Post, located in Chicago's Little Village community, was established specifically for Mexican American veterans and named in honor of Private First-Class Manuel Pérez Jr., the 7th Mexican American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his extraordinary bravery during the Battle of Luzon in World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Manuel Guard American Legion Post has been an integral part of the Little Village community, participating in events such as the Mexican Independence Parade, serving as an Honor Guard, and collaborating with other veteran organizations to support community initiatives like violence prevention and intervention. Under the leadership of Commander Abundio Zaragoza, the Post has become a pillar of the community, engaging in activities that include distributing donations during Christmas, building community gardens, beautifying schools, and participating in community fairs and markets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of RONALD J. BALTIERRA, DAVID M. RAMIREZ, and the MANUEL PEREZ AMERICAN LEGION POST #1017. Their unwavering dedication to service, both to our country and our community, exemplifies the spirit of Chicago and the enduring legacy of our veterans. I encourage all residents to join in celebrating their remarkable achievements and their continued commitment to making our city a better place for all. As the arches proudly state, "Bienvenidos A Little Village."

Dated this 11th day of September, 2024.



Mayor