



A Tribute Resolution of Heartfelt Appreciation Honoring James W. Retseck

Whereas Jim Retseck embraced the vision of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society (EDHS), recognizing the value provided to the public by EDHS and becoming an advocate for the organization;

Whereas Jim Retseck started a lasting organizational relationship between EDHS and the Old Lighthouse Museum/Michigan City Historical Society organization;

Whereas Jim Retseck recognized the importance of the resort community of Michigan City, Indiana and its lakefront Washington Park to the history of the Western Electric Hawthorne Works' annual employee picnic and the Eastland Disaster;

Whereas Jim Retseck elevated the relevance and significance of the history of the Eastland Disaster within the Old Lighthouse Museum/Michigan City Historical Society and throughout the city of Michigan City;

Whereas Jim Retseck created a permanent Eastland Disaster exhibit inside the Old Lighthouse Museum, and stocked Eastland Disaster merchandise in the Old Lighthouse Museum store;

Whereas Jim Retseck organized an annual commemoration program held at Millennium Park in Michigan City over the weekend of each anniversary of the Eastland Disaster;

Whereas Jim Retseck led the effort to plan, fundraise for, and construct on the grounds of the Old Lighthouse Museum a beautiful, poignant, permanent outdoor memorial to the victims of the Eastland Disaster;

Whereas Jim Retseck became an even bigger advocate of the Eastland Disaster upon the recent (2017) discovery that a portion of his extended family was lost in the tragedy;

Whereas Jim Retseck was interviewed for and appeared in the 2019 documentary, "Eastland: Chicago's Deadliest Day"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Eastland Disaster Historical Society, on behalf of its members and Board, commits to:

1. creating a collection of artifacts to permanently bear the name *James W. Retseck / EDHS Collection* at the Newberry Library, an iconic institution in Chicago; and
2. documenting James W. Retseck's personal contributions to EDHS on a webpage to be permanently tied to the "About Us" section of the EDHS website.

So moved and seconded on October 28, 2019 by the EDHS Board of Trustees.

Susan Decker
Co-Founder

Barbara Decker Wachholz
Co-Founder

Ted Wachholz
Executive Director

1998-2019 OUR TWENTY-FIRST YEAR!
