

RESOLUTION NUMBER 172
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Schicker

WHEREAS, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Schicker of the Missouri National Guard was deployed in March to Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province, on far-eastern edge of Afghanistan, bordering Pakistan. The mission was to teach agricultural skills as one of 55 members of the Missouri National Guard's Agribusiness Development Team VI; and

WHEREAS, Team VI officially was listed as a non-combat unit, but in the mountains of Afghanistan, such listings are subject to instant change. On April 15, a suicide bomber blew a hole through the wall of the team's operating compound, opening the way for a swarm of grenade-throwing Taliban terrorists who quickly killed an Afghan soldier and wounded several members of Team VI, including Sgt. 1st Class Schicker; and

WHEREAS, the men of Team VI fought off assaults on the west and south walls of the compound, holding their position until reinforcements arrived. For that action, the Army awarded 23 guardsmen (including Sgt. 1st Class Schicker) the Combat Action Badge and 15 (again including Sgt. 1st Class Schicker) the Purple Heart. Two guardsmen were recommended for the Bronze Star with Valor; three were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, two the Army Combat Medical Badge, and five (including Sgt. 1st Class Schicker) the Combat Commendation Medal with Valor; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. 1st Class Schicker's new medals will not be lonely dangling from his chest. He has twice been awarded the Bronze Star. Twice before he was awarded an Army commendation medal, and once before the Purple Heart. He began his army career in 1978, and took his first combat tour in 2005, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, this second visit to Afghanistan will be Sgt. 1st Class Schicker's last. He was knocked unconscious and nearly killed by the grenade that wounded him in the Jalalabad action, and still carries shrapnel in his right leg from the explosion. As a 52-year-old grandfather, his combat career is over. His current assignment is Jefferson Barracks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the accomplishments of Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Schicker and thank him for his service to the citizens to the City of St. Louis, Missouri and the United States and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 18th day of November, 2012 by:

Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of November, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen