

RESOLUTION NUMBER 233

Shirley Ann Williams

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to note the untimely passing of longtime St. Louis resident, Shirley Ann Williams; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann Williams, the only child of Percy and Dorothy (Jackson) Williams was born on May 15, 1941 in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann was a product of the St. Louis Public Schools, graduating from John Marshall Elementary School in 1954 and Charles Sumner High School in 1958. She received her undergraduate degree from Washington University in early childhood education, after matriculating first at Michigan State University in speech therapy. In later years, she studied further at Washington University in her chosen fields; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann retired from the Special School District in St. Louis in the 1990s, after many years of teaching at Holman Elementary School. After retirement, she taught as early childhood adjunct faculty at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. Prior to her experiences at Holman, she was a kindergarten teacher at Banneker Elementary in St. Louis City and an early childhood teacher for Head Start in St. Louis and Roswell, Georgia, as well as the Early Child Care Development Corporation in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann's Christian life was very deep, sincere and involved. In 1946, she was baptized at Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church and held membership there until her death. For many years, she was a very active in New Sunnymount Baptist Church. In the last few years of her life, she also served as teacher of the Dorcas Circle at Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Just as Shirley Ann was tenacious in her Christian life, she was tenacious in the community and all in which she was involved. In 1963, she and her mother moved to the O'Fallon neighborhood, where she lived in the same house until her demise on January 27, 2013. During this time, she was a founding member of the O'Fallon Community Organization. She also served as the organization's treasurer, historian and all other capacities to make it one of the most outstanding neighborhoods in North St. Louis. Further, Shirley Ann volunteered with many political campaigns, nationally and locally and was active member of the 21st Ward; and

WHEREAS, in addition to all above, Shirley Ann found time to tutor children, be involved in the African American Genealogy Society here in St. Louis and attend most cultural events in our city and the African American Theatre series every summer in Winston Salem, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann is survived by her mother, Dorothy Mae Bennett; one cousin, Mary Louise Sykes and her family; and many friends and neighbors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions of Shirley Ann Williams to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with her many friends in expressing our sorrow at her passing, 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Williams family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 1st day of February, 2013 by:

Honorable Antonio D. French Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 1st day of February, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen