

RESOLUTION NUMBER 260

Susan C. Lauritsen

WHEREAS, Whereas, Susan C. Lauritsen has been a Park Ranger for the City of St. Louis for five years and ten months. She was hired on February 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2010 at 1:29AM, Ranger Lauritsen entered the eastern section of Fairgrounds Park at Natural Bridge and N. Grand. Crossing Vandeventer, she continued onto the interior road along the north side of the lake. Noticing a car driving along the south side of the lake, she turned her spotlight on and began following the vehicle. As she reached the south side of the lake, she could no longer see the car. Using her spotlight, she located the vehicle around the side of the bridge, submerged in the lake; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Lauritsen immediately called for police back up. Approaching the car, she saw that it was occupied by one adult male who was in the driver's seat with his window down. He was conscious and began waving for help. At this point the water level inside the car was above his shoulders but had not yet reached his face; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Lauritsen assured the man that help was on its way, but as several minutes passed the rear of the car began to sink. With the water level reaching his chin, the driver began to panic. After radioing her superior, Ranger Lauritsen removed her duty belt and wallet and courageously waded into the lake to rescue the citizen; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Lauritsen, upon arriving at the car, observed that the occupant appeared to be severely intoxicated and didn't know how to get out of the car. Ranger Lauritsen told him to open the door, and he said he couldn't get out. Ranger Lauritsen checked to see if the man's seat belt was buckled. Learning that it was unsecured, she ordered him to get out but he did not respond. With the water level continuing to rise, Ranger Lauritsen opened the car door and grabbed the man by his jacket, pulling him out. Ranger Lauritsen had to support the man as they walked to land. The man was later transported by paramedics to Barnes Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Ranger Lauritsen then helped to coordinate the Fire Department water rescue team and City Tow in hauling the vehicle from the lake.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to note the heroism shown by Park Ranger Susan C. Lauritsen in the performance of her duties on November 22, 2010. Her awareness, courage, and prompt action on the job resulted in the saving of a man's life and serves as an example of the fine and unsung service provided by countless employees of the City of St. Louis everyday, 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 3rd day of December, 2010 by:

Honorable Antonio D. French Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 3rd day of December, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen