

**Resolution Number 228**

**Mr. Henry Leroy Walker**

*WHEREAS*, we have been appraised that Henry Leroy Walker is celebrating his 80th birthday; and

*WHEREAS*, Henry was born November 5, 1930 in Lampkins, Mississippi to the union of Henry and Willie Walker. He is one of fourteen children. Henry confessed a hope in Christ at Christian Valley Church at the age of 9; and

*WHEREAS*, in 1944 at the age of 13, Henry moved to Canton, Mississippi and began singing gospel music with his uncle, Warren G. Ward and the Canton Spirituals, becoming the youngest in the group; and

*WHEREAS*, at the age of 16, Henry moved to St. Louis, Missouri and became a member of Friendship Baptist Church. He joined the quartet groups "MaxBell Jubilee Singers" and "Friendly Five", where he was one of the original members. He later joined "Darling Helen Lumpkins & the Spirit of Paradise", being the only male singer in the group. His love for gospel music is evident. Henry is currently a member of the Gospel Soul Seekers and a soloist throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area; and

*WHEREAS*, in 1947 Henry met and fell in love with Ethel Jean Williams and married her March 9, 1950 and with this union they were blessed with seven children: Melvin, Doris, Janet, Valerie, Darlene, Sandra, Keith and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren; and

*WHEREAS*, in 1952, Henry moved his family from the south side of St. Louis to 2933 Montgomery Street in the 5th Ward and resided there for 56 years before redevelopment in 2007. They united with the North Galilee Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Mack Mills; Pastor William G. Randle and presently under the leadership of Jerrell Montgomery. Henry and his wife have been members for 48 years. He attends church service, Sunday school and bible study on a regular basis as well as sings in the male choir. He also drives the church bus and has been for over 25 years. On Sunday's, you can always find him sitting in the second row ready to hear the glorious word of God; and

*WHEREAS*, Henry was committed to serving the community. He spent many years as a mentor to many children in the neighborhood. He organized and coached an all girls softball team called the Ellisettes sponsored by Ellis Funeral Home; the Crusaders sponsored by Lou Brock Boys & Girls Club (who were champions for three consecutive years); Catholic Youth Council Boys & Girls Club and a little league boy's baseball team. Besides coaching, Henry was very active in his neighborhood. He always made sure that the neighborhood was clean, free of trash and debris. He also assisted his neighbors in cutting their grass at no charge, provided transportation to those who were unable to get to and from the grocery store to shop or pay bills. Henry and his wife have aided families in hard times and raised many children along with his own; and

*WHEREAS*, Henry began his employment at the General Motors Plant on Kingshighway & Union Blvd before relocating to Wentzville, Missouri where he later retired after 33 years of service. He is presently working at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Creve Coeur, Missouri and has been loyal and dedicated for 18 years; and

*WHEREAS*, Henry is a dedicated father, husband and grandfather, great grandfather and cherish every moment spent with family. He is a blessing, mentor and friend and is loved by many.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to wish Mr. Henry Leroy Walker a very happy 80th Birthday 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 for presentation to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 29th day of October, 2010 by:

**Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward**

Adopted this the 29th day of October, 2010 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen