

RESOLUTION NUMBER 229

Charles Reed Shaw

WHEREAS, Charles Reed Shaw was born on January 27, 1923 in Augusta, Arkansas. He was the last child born to the union of William and Rosie Shaw. His parents, as well as his sisters, Irma Ruth Newman, Luddie Mae Moore, Milisa Shaw, and his brothers, John Buffet Shaw, Andrew Jennings Shaw (Uncle Pop) and Jake Shaw all preceded him in death. He also leaves a loving sister, Rosalie Riggins who currently resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, his first business was a lemonade stand as a young boy in his neighborhood. As a born leader, he accomplished many goals starting with an honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1945. In the Army, he was responsible for getting ammunition to his fellow soldiers on the enemy lines. He used to say "I had to dodge bullets and bombs all around me." He was one of several black soldiers awarded a special commendation from Jefferson City, MO, the State Capital of Missouri, because they were never properly recognized for their bravery during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Charles Shaw quickly worked his way up from a curtain hanger to a laborer and finally to the Union President of the Water Department for the City of St. Louis. He was introduced to the union by the then current union president, Mr. John McGlothan whom he highly respected as his mentor. He quickly became a dedicated worker of the union and was nominated to the President of the National Federation of Water Department Local 675, which represented about 9,000 city workers for over 25 years. As a Union President, he joined forces with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal employees, increasing the political power of the union with support of the AFSC. He grew the Union from only water works employees to more city employees including ambulance drivers, employees of the city hospitals, and various public agencies and centers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaw worked directly over the reign of several St. Louis Mayors including Alfonso J. Cervantes, James Conway, Vincent Schoemehl, and John Poelker. He was known for rallying support of the Black Clergy to assist him in putting pressure on the city officials to raise concern for much needed pay raises and better benefits for the public workers. His motto was, "More money or no work." He stayed true to his motto and led several strikes and was ultimately granted sufficient pay increases and better benefits; and

WHEREAS, in 1982 and 1983, he was named campaign chairman for the United Black Community Fund (UBCF). UBCF was a non-profit tax-exempt charitable organization that provided funds to agencies serving the disadvantaged children and the aged. Before he was an elected officer, he was with the organization since its inception. Under his leadership, the UBCF exceeded its financial campaign goals for the first time in its nine-year history. Charles and his son William Shaw were reported by the St. Louis Post Dispatch as instrumentally the reason to the overwhelming success of the campaign drive. They exceeded their goal by \$50,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year; and

WHEREAS, one of his final accomplishments was the building of the Charles R. Shaw Union Hall for Local 675 as a black-owned business in the community. The building was created to meet the business and social needs within the community. The hall was reserved for political events to family reunions. Mr. Shaw finally retired from his professional career in the mid 1990s and continued his work in the senior community; and

WHEREAS, some of his awards and commendations include: Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award, various leadership awards from the City of St. Louis and Jefferson City, many proclamations and commendations, the Humanitarian Award from the University of Missouri-St. Louis (his name currently resides on the campus on a plaque award), 2 Bronze Stars- United States Army, Good Conduct Award- United States Army, Special Military Commendation Award; and

WHEREAS, he leaves 10 children to cherish his memory. His eldest son, Charles H. Shaw preceded him in death. He leaves his daughter-in-law Valerie Shaw (Charles Shaw), Irene (Malcolm) Ross, Beverly Shaw-Thomas, Stanley Shaw, William J. Shaw, Sharron Y. Essex, Timothy D. Shaw, Andrew D. (Debbie) Shaw, Charlotte Shaw, Carmen Currie-Shaw and Kayla R. Shaw. He has 20 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren (one preceded him in death) and 6 great-great grandchildren.

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 Charles Reed Shaw to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with his many friends in expressing our sorrow at his 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 Shaw family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor

Introduced on the 22nd day of October, 2010 by:

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

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

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen