

RESOLUTION NUMBER 239

Earl Wilson Jr.

WHEREAS, Earl Wilson Jr., founder of the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation and a legendary advocate for the African-American community in St. Louis, passed away approximately 8 a.m. Friday, October 29, 2010 at his home in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was born the middle son in a hardscrabble, tight-knit family. He grew up at 11th and Carr streets near downtown, just blocks from where he would eventually build his foundation and sports complex, at Martin Luther King Drive and 20th. Mr. Wilson fought successfully in the ring, winning a Golden Gloves boxing championship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was educated in the St. Louis Public Schools (graduating from Vashon High School), Harris Stowe Teachers College and Lincoln University. Before establishing the legacy of the Gateway Classic, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and worked his way up at IBM; in his final position, he led a \$1.4 billion operation with more than 100 salesmen; and

WHEREAS, 108 scholars attended higher education at a historically black college or university through a total of \$2.8 million in Gateway Classic scholarships, using funds raised primarily through an annual fall football game. The foundation that he built hosts an annual football game between two black college teams at the Edward Jones Dome; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson is mourned by dozens of African Americans of high achievement who have been enshrined in the Gateway Classic Walk of Fame, which honors such St. Louis-area legends as former Congressman William L. Clay, Jackie-Joyner Kersee, Ozzie Smith, The 5th Dimension and comedian Dick Gregory. He is also mourned by hundreds of community advocates and activists who used the Gateway Classic facility as a safe haven and organizing hub. Mr. Wilson's foundation also provided food for thousands of people at various times during the year and toys for children at Christmas; and

WHEREAS, his wife, Billie H. Wilson, daughter Denise Wilson and daughter Theresa Anderson were with Mr. Wilson when he passed. Other survivors include his daughters Stacey Wilson McMahon and Kimberly Wilson; his sons Richard Gray, Steven M. Anderson, Michael Anderson, David Anderson and Bill Anderson; seven grandchildren; and two 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 Earl Wilson Jr. 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 Wilson family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 5th day of November, 2010 by:

Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8th Ward

Kenneth A. Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Fred Heitert, Alderman 12th Ward

Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward

Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward

Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward

Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward

Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward

Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward

Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward

William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward

Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward

Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 5th day of November, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen