

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 283**

**Charles E. Jones**

**WHEREAS**, we pause in our deliberations to note the untimely passing of Charles E. Jones; and

**WHEREAS**, Charles E. Jones of Hayti, Missouri was elected as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of all Prince Hall Masons in Missouri in July 2009. In this role he served as the Chief Executive Officer of all Prince Hall Masonic Lodges in Missouri and its Masonic Jurisdictions including Puerto Rico. During his long and illustrious career he held several positions in the Grand Lodge of Missouri and his home Lodge Wardell Lodge #157 in Hayti. He joined Wardell Lodge No. 157 in 1976 and held numerous offices in that Lodge. He was also a member of Semo Chapter No. 8, Holy Royal Arch Masons, and served as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the State of Missouri and its Jurisdictions. Charles was also a member of the Knights of Templar and Central Star Chapter #114 of Order of Eastern Star; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jones was a member of Eureka Consistory #29, AASR, Southern Jurisdiction in St. Louis and advanced to the 33°, Grand Inspector General in 2008. He also held membership in Medinah Temple #39, AEANMS in St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, he was employed at Parker Hannifin in Kenneth, Missouri for 33 years and was a Production Manager when he retired. He received his early education at Gobler Elementary School and graduated from Delta C-7 High School. He received a Arts Degree from MCCC in Blytheville, Arkansas and was presently taking night classes to towards a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. He is also a member of the NAACP; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jones came from a very religious family and all of his upbringing and ideas was modeled from his childhood Sundays in church. He believed Sunday was a day for attending Church and nothing else. His family attended the neighborhood church in Holland, Missouri under the leadership of the late Bishop Watson. He attended Sunday school and afternoon services faithfully at the church; and

**WHEREAS** Prince Hall Freemasonry started among Black men during the War of Independence, when Prince Hall and 14 other free Black men were initiated into Lodge #441 attached to the British Army at Castle William Boston Harbor in 1775. When the British Army left Boston, Lodge #441 granted Prince Hall and his brother's authority to meet as a Lodge but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic Work. In 1784 after nine years of limited privileges, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant or charter. The Charter was granted on September 28, 1784 and Prince Hall became the first Master of the Lodge. Today the Prince Hall fraternity has over 4,500 Lodges worldwide, forming 44 independent jurisdictions with membership of over 300,000 Masons; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the most famous Prince Hall Masons include Rev. Jesse Jackson, the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Rev. Al Sharpton, Congressman Charles Rangel, Nat "King" Cole, W.E.B. DuBois, Alexander Dumas, Kweisi Mfume, Don King, the late Richard Pryor, Alexander Pushkin, Sugar Ray Robinson and the late Ossie Davis. In Missouri, former Mayor of St. Louis Freeman Bosley, Jr., the late City Comptroller John Bass and numerous members of the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis.

**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 E. Jones and we join with his many friends in expressing our sorrow at his passing and we join with the Prince Hall Masons in Missouri in paying respect to the first Prince Hall Grand Master from the Bootheel of Missouri 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 Jones family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

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

**Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward**

Adopted this the 5th day of February, 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