

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 284**

### **James Zell Williams**

**WHEREAS**, James Zell Williams was born May 27, 1921 in Enid, Mississippi to the union of the late Charles and Elizabeth Cora Williams. He was the only child born to this union. Three children; two sisters and one brother preceded him in death. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at an early age and was called to his permanent home on December 30, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, James worked as a farmer. He later joined the United States Army where he was a World War II Veteran serving with the Battery "B" 969<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion unit as a gunner. James met General Patton in April 1943 in England prior to the allied invasion of France and the subsequent Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He received the Purple Heart, as well as several other medals and honors, being Honorably Discharged on October 25, 1945; and

**WHEREAS**, James was united in Holy Matrimony to Laura Hamilton on November 27, 1945 in Batesville, Mississippi. God blessed them with seven children: Jimmie Williams, Jerry Williams, Pearley Day, Willie Williams, John Williams, Cora Lee Williams, and Geraldine Williams; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1956 James moved his family to St. Louis. He provided for his family by working for Bussman Fuse for fourteen years, ten of which were as the union representative until the age of retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, James was active, committed, and passionate about his involvement in the church and community. He was a faithful member and President Emeritus of Greater Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, a founding member of the male chorus, and served on the Trustee Board; and

**WHEREAS**, in the community James served as the Chairman of the Fairground Community Organization, President of Block Unit 868, and as a Mason. He is the namesake of the James Z. Williams Complex revitalization area of the parking lot located at Natural Bridge and Vandeventer. He was a founding member and resident of the Neighborhood Council and involved with Matthew Dickey Boys and Girls Club; and

**WHEREAS**, James leaves to cherish his memories his devoted wife, Laura; daughter Pearley Day; three sons, Jimmie Lee Williams; Jerry Williams (Willie Mae); Willie Williams (Freida); one sister, Louise Ray; one brother, Samuel Williams (Lois); daughter-in-law Sandra Williams; and one goddaughter, Nakitha Davis. In addition, he leaves behind forty two grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren, great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends who loved him dearly.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember James Zell Williams 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 Williams family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 by:

**Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward**

Adopted this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 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