

**Resolution Number 160**  
**James M. Wilkes**

**WHEREAS**, James M. Wilkes is a longtime resident of the city's 3rd Ward, a proud United States Marine Corps Veteran, an entrepreneur and a man who has dedicated his life to public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wilkes answered a call to service as a young man, becoming one of the first 2,000 African-American males enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he would serve in WWII and the Korea War; and

**WHEREAS**, in April of 1993 Mr. Wilkes was asked by then Mayor Freeman Bosley, Jr. to serve the residents of the City of St. Louis by accepting an appointment to the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Tax Equalization Board — a board comprised of three highly skilled professionals with expertise in the areas taxation and accounting who've demonstrated an ability to attract new manufacturing business to the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Wilkes, commended for his contributions and leadership on this board, was subsequently re-appointed by Mayor's Harmon and Slay, including as board chair, overseeing some 800 manufacturing businesses for accuracy, growth, problems and stability; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, some 60 years after the war ended, Wilkes was one of three servicemen in St. Louis recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation's highest honors, for defending freedom around the world in World War II, while also fighting for racial equality and full citizenship here in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, we now wish to recognize and honor James M. Wilkes' service to the residents and businesses of the City of St. Louis on the occasion of his retirement from the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Tax Equalization Board after 21 years; and

**WHEREAS**, we thank the entire Wilkes' family — especially his wife, Mrs. Delores Minges-Wilkes and 8 children but also, in later years, his 23 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren, for supporting James in his service of this country and city.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to join with friends, family, and co-workers, as we wish James M. Wilkes peace and happiness in his retirement and thank him for a life of service. 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 to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 by:

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

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 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