

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 71**  
**HONORING AUDREY MARIE SMITH**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of this Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis of the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Audrey Marie Smith; and

**WHEREAS**, Audrey Marie Friehs was born September 3, 1921. Her parents were August Friehs and Marie Imhof, who immigrated to St. Louis as children. In her earliest years, she lived above her parent's bakery, at 320 Victor Street, in the Souldard area of St. Louis, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, her parents were both German, and they married at the height of the Spanish flu, at the epicenter of that flu, near Ft. Riley, Kansas, where August was stationed in the US Army. Audrey had one brother, Curt, who was older; and

**WHEREAS**, Audrey and her the family attended Saints Peter and Paul church and school, a primarily German congregation. Audrey also attended the Turners, where she was an excellent gymnast. This began a lifelong love of daily exercise; and

**WHEREAS**, she also began piano lessons and later also played the cello, bass fiddle and bugle. In 1929, the family moved to a new house across from Carondelet Park, on Leona Street. She later attended St. Stephen Protomartyr school for 7th and 8th grades. This was followed by Saint Elizabeth Academy, where she participated in many activities, including Sodality, Legion of Mary, Drum and Bugle Corps, and Floral Club. She graduated in 1939; and

**WHEREAS**, during her high school years, she shared a car with her brother, but was never required to take a driving test. She next attended Miss Hickey's Secretarial School, followed by her job at International Shoe Company. She was occasionally the shoe model there, as she could fit her tiny foot into a 5.5 AAA shoe. She also worked at the VA hospital, after World War 2 began. She was the secretary for four ophthalmologists. Her spelling and typing skills were excellent; and

**WHEREAS**, she met her future husband, at a little restaurant on Holly Hills. His name was Warren Smith, and she was already a friend of his oldest sister, Muriel Smith. The Smith family was from New Orleans, but had moved to St Louis in the late 1920s. Warren was in the US Marines during the war, and saw action in Iwo Jima, as well as other battles; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren and Audrey were married August 24, 1946 at St. Stephen Protomartyr Catholic Church. They stayed in the same neighborhood, and eventually bought the upstairs unit of a flat on Bowen Street. Audrey later had the first of her four children, Kathleen, followed by Gary, Michael and Kevin, the twins. The growing Smith family then moved to the house on Tyrolean Avenue and into the new and growing Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. This was followed by the birth of two more children, Karen and Warren; and

**WHEREAS**, Audrey participated in many IHM school activities, including room mother, Cub Scouts , and Girl Scouts. Even with six children, and the hectic home life, she remained friends and played cards with her friends from high school days. She was a recycler, long before it became a popular thing to do. She also enjoyed many hobbies including gardening, knitting which she used to make her children hats and mittens for winter. She

continued to exercise which did in the kitchen, with prompts from a radio program. In the summer, she enjoyed listening to Cardinals baseball games on the radio. Audrey became a St. Louis Blues Hockey fan, having been around since the beginning, and having 4 active boys that all played hockey growing up; and

**WHEREAS**, tragically, her husband Warren died in an auto accident on November 3, 1970. At the time, she still had four children to raise by herself, since Kathleen and Gary were already on their own. During that first year of widowhood, she would babysit her first two grandchildren, Michael and Karen Wiese, who lived nearby that year. Later on, she'd babysit her grandson Warren IV, and can tell you lots of stories from those days; and

**WHEREAS**, with all of her children grown, Audrey continued to be active with the IHM Parish, Lady's Sodality and other IHM organizations. She continued to enjoy gardening, being outside, and keeping up with her lawn by using a push lawn mower into her 80s; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, all six of her children would get married which expanded her family. Today, Audrey has 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, with the youngest, Jasper, being born in 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Audrey Marie Smith on her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and by adoption of this resolution wish to join her birthday festivities. 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021 by:**  
**The Honorable Anne Schweitzer, Alderman 13<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Adopted the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021, as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis E. Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**