RESOLUTION NUMBER 115
HONORING THE 100th BIRTHDAY OF MR. RICHARD A. SIMMONS

WHEREAS, longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis recognizes with respect and admiration the contribution of Richard A. Simmons has made to our community; and

WHEREAS, Richard A Simmons was born and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri on October 24, 1921. He attended Lincoln University High and graduated from Lincoln University College in August 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. He later received a master’s degree in Education from Missouri University in August 1957; and

WHEREAS, Richard A. Simmons served as a member of the United States Army from 1942-1946 and again from 1950-1952. He achieved the rank of First Sergeant and Master Sergeant. During service he was noted as "Outstanding Rifleman". He was also awarded the Bronze Star medal for bravery; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint with the United States Army for the second time, he then began teaching classes in math, physical education as well as coaching the basketball and track teams at Washington High School in 1952 under the Caruthersville School District and during his tenure at Washington High School he coached the boys track team to 3 consecutive State Titles from 1957 to 1959; and

WHEREAS, Richard A. Simmons began his tenure with the St. Louis Public Schools in 1960 as the Physical Education instructor at Cote Brilliante Elementary School. After serving several years there, he then proceeded to Sumner High School as the boys’ physical education instructor. While at Sumner High School he was the head coach for varsity soccer and "B" Team head coach for football before accepting the Athletic Director position; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the Athletic Director Sumner High Schools there were many notable achievements: 4 State Titles in Football, along with 5 Second Place finishes, 1 Final Four appearance in Basketball, 10 Top 4 finishes for Boys Track and 8 Top 4 finishes for Girls Track. He finished his education career as an Administrative Assistant in the St. Louis Public School District in 1995; and

WHEREAS, he describes himself as someone who always tries to be nice and who lives by the Golden Rule which entails “treating people right”. He is described by others as being very humble, athletic, supportive, caring and very grateful for everything you do for him. He is also described as being easy to get along with, someone who takes pride in his appearance, being a good listener and friend; and

WHEREAS, Richard A Simmons, has live the majority of his life in the city of St. Louis. He is a man of great faith and one who affectionately loves his entire family including his wife of 70 years, Sallie H. Simmons, his four children, his six grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and his dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Richard A. Simmons is a founding member of the Greater St. Louis Black Athletic Association, established to bring much needed recognition to St. Louis Public High School Athletes, specifically African American athletes overlooked by the major media of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 was inducted into the Greater St Louis Athletic Association Hall of Fame. He was also recognized during his tenure as Athletic Director for Outstanding Service by the Missouri State Association of Athletic Directors; and

WHEREAS, received numerous plaques, letters of appreciation from the Missouri State High School Athletic Association for his service and dedication to high school athletics. In addition to serving as Athletic Director for Sumner, it was not uncommon for him to be the timekeeper at high school basketball games, a volleyball official,
and "Starter" for many of the major track and field meets throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area. His legacy of sports accomplishments includes 108 district championships and 41 state titles.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this Honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Richard A. Simmons on his birthday and by adoption of this Resolution wish him all the best in his future endeavors. 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 at a time and place and to those deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 22nd day of October, 2021 by:  
The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26th Ward

Adopted this 22nd day of October, 2021 as attested by:

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Terry Kennedy               Lewis Reed
Clerk, Board of Aldermen    President, Board of Aldermen