

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6
HONORING JOANIE THOMAS SPURGEON

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that after more than four decades in the restaurant business, Joanie Thomas Spurgeon officially hung up her apron and retired in March of this year; and

WHEREAS, Joan Marie Thomas was born on April 5th, 1961, to Charles and Margaret Thomas, she was the youngest of four siblings: Patti, Tommy, and Michael; Joanie grew up in south St. Louis where she attended St. Agnes grade school and St. Anthony's High School; at age 15 she began working at Buck Or Two Steakhouse--beginning her long career in the restaurant industry; and

WHEREAS, Joanie took courses at Forest Park community college for Chef's Apprenticeship and Restaurant Business and Management Program; after opening her restaurant years later she was invited back to Forest Park where she gave talks to students aspiring to go into the restaurant business; and

WHEREAS, prior to opening her own restaurant, Joanie and her sister Patti worked at the newly opened and now famous Broadway Oyster Bar; she then went on to manage the 1860's Saloon--it was there Joanie knew she wanted to open her own restaurant in the Soulard neighborhood that she had grown to love; and

WHEREAS, in early February, 1994, 2 weeks before the annual Mardi Gras festivities kicked off, Joanie's Pizzeria officially opened at 2101 Menard Street in the heart of Soulard; almost instantly the restaurant became a hub for neighbors, family, friends and customers to meet and enjoy good food and live music; it would soon become a destination for numerous birthday parties, baby showers, rehearsal dinners, reunions, and happy hours---strangers became lifelong friends at Joanies Pizzeria; and

WHEREAS, Joanie met the love of her life, Doug Spurgeon, who was sitting on a barstool at the pizzeria when she first saw him; they were wed on October 11th, 2008, on a beautiful fall evening at Soulard Park surrounded by family, friends, business partners, neighbors and employees; the evening was beautiful the long-awaited wedding was epic; and

WHEREAS, as the restaurant continued to thrive--so did the number of carry-out orders, Joanie's response: open a place down the street, for carry out and delivery only, increase catering menu and call it Joanies To Go; she did and it is still thriving today; and

WHEREAS, Joanie spent a lot of time volunteering nearby at St. Vincent De Paul Church with her beloved aunt and uncle, Joan and Bob Soaib; whether it was their influence or another force, Joanie has always been a model for the saying "It's better to give than to receive"; and

WHEREAS, over the years Joanie donated thousands of gift certificates to anyone who asked for her support, she hosted many events, large and small, from the notorious Spaghetti Wrestling Contests to an evening at the restaurant to raise money to help out an employee; Joanie's employees were her extended family and she cared for them as a mother cares for a child--teaching, sometimes scolding, but always loving and supporting them in any way she could to make a positive difference in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Joanie resides in and loves her Soulard neighborhood; she was a founding member of the Soulard Business Association and Soulard Safety Committee, she has sat on and advised various neighborhood committees; Joanie and Joanie's Pizzeria will forever be in the hearts and memories of all those who live, work, and play in Soulard.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to thank, congratulate, and wish good luck to Joanie Thomas Spurgeon for her incredible generosity and contributions to our City and we wish her peace and happiness in her retirement. 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 her at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 29th day of April, 2022 by:

The Honorable Jack Coatar, Alderman 7th Ward

The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9th Ward

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

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2022 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen