

Resolution Number 84
O’Lester Wise Sr.

WHEREAS, we pause today to express our sadness as we note the passing of O’Lester Wise, Sr. and offer condolences to his family; and

WHEREAS, O’Lester was born in Joiner, Arkansas on March 29th, 1944, to the union of Nathaniel and Robizina Wise, who both preceded him in death. He is also preceded in death by his siblings, Arma Dean, Arthur Clarence, Nathaniel, Jr., Teretha Mason and Geleatha Edwards; and

WHEREAS, at the age of seven, O’Lester confessed his hope in Christ and was baptized at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Tyronza, Arkansas; he was educated in the public school systems of Tyronza, Arkansas, and Poplar Bluff, Missouri and went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in biology at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, on July 1st, 1967, O’Lester Wise, Sr. married the former Erma Jean Earl and to this union three children were born; O’Lester was a devoted father, educator, coach, mentor, and friend. He demanded academic excellence by his children and ensured each of them were exposed to enriching extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, on August 15th, 1975, O’Lester was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated; he was a dedicated member and lived by the aims of the organization: “Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind”; and

WHEREAS, O’Lester was joined in holy matrimony on May 5th, 1990, to Angelina C. Calma and to this union one daughter was born. He continued his work with St. John’s Mercy Medical Center where he was employed for nearly 40 years. After retirement in 2009, O’Lester became very involved in the Academy neighborhood in St. Louis City where he served as a block captain and worked on many political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, O’Lester was known for his helpful and caring spirit, he was a surrogate father, not only to his nieces and nephews, but also to anyone whose father was absent; he was a neighbor who was well trusted, liked, and respected; he accomplished much, overcame all, and demonstrated tenacity despite his physical disabilities—and did it all with a smile; and

WHEREAS, O’Lester Wise, Sr. will be remembered by his loving wife of 25 years, Angelina; his children O’Lester, Jr. (Carmella), Angela (Eric), Christopher and Kristia; his seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, six siblings, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that upon learning of the passing of O’Lester Wise, Sr., and wishing to add our names to the rolls of people grieving over his loss, but celebrating his life, we pause

in our deliberation to adopt this resolution of condolence and commemoration drafted in his honor 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 his family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 6th day of August, 2015 by:

Alderman Frank Williamson, Ward 26

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

Adopted this 6th day of August, 2015 as attested by

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen