

**RESOLUTION 90
FRIEDRICH HECKER**

WHEREAS, Friedrich Hecker, born September 28, 1811, in Eichtersheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, was a hero to the vast majority of German Americans in the United States during the mid-19th Century; and

WHEREAS, Hecker was a lawyer, politician, primary agitator, and military leader in the 1848 Revolutions in Germany to overthrow the monarchy, and following the revolutionaries' defeat, Hecker looked to the United States for inspiration, believing the new nation's prosperity was due to its liberal Constitution, and the separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, Hecker moved to Illinois, then returned to Europe when revolution reignited in Germany in 1849, but soon after his arrival in Strassburg, the revolution was defeated by Prussian troops, and he returned to Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Hecker next turned his attentions to the abolition of slavery in the United States, and following the battle of Fort Sumter, the start of the Civil War, he answered President Lincoln's call for Union volunteers and began a recruitment campaign which resulted in Illinois exceeding its allotment of 6,000 volunteers in five days; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 1861, Hecker and his eldest son enlisted as privates in the Third Missouri Infantry Regiment, commanded by the German American Colonel Franz Sigel, but Hecker was soon placed in command of the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, known as Hecker's Rifles, and fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, among many other battles; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Hecker returned to his farm in Summerville, Illinois, and in 1871, in the City of St. Louis, Hecker gave his famous address of his enthusiasm for German Americans and their great future in the reunited "Fatherland", the United States; and

WHEREAS, a monument was dedicated to Friedrich Hecker in Benton Park, on October 1, 1882, before a crowd of over 15,000 people, and on August 12, 2018, a wreath shall be laid at Hecker's monument and his burial site in Summerville, Illinois, by Dr. Johannes Fechner (MdB) a member of the German Bundestag.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we join with the descendants of Friedrich Hecker, the members of the Missouri German Consortium, and others who will gather on August 12, 2018, in Benton Park, to honor Friedrich Hecker for his vision for German Americans and his service to his new fatherland, the United States, and we 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 deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 10th day of August, 2018 by:

The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9th Ward

Adopted this 10th day of August, 2018, as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Legal Counsel, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen