

## **RESOLUTION NO. 90**

### **Sophia J. Ellis**

**WHEREAS**, Sophia J. Ellis, also affectionately known as “Popgood” and “Big Mama,” was born January 22, 1931 in Louisville, KY, the second child to Mattie and Justice Redd; and

**WHEREAS**, she confessed her faith in Christ at the age of 8 years old; Sophia was baptized at Leonard Baptist Church, and later converted to the Lutheran faith in 1975; Bethesda Lutheran Church became her new church home; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia moved to St. Louis, Missouri at the age of 5 years old, and was educated in the St. Louis Public School system; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia graduated from Vashon High School, and attended the former Harris-Stowe Teacher’s College; she met, fell in love, and married Ernest L. Ellis of Hattiesburg, Mississippi in March 1952; they were married for forty-four wonderful years; to their union, three children were born, one daughter, Irene Kimberly Ellis, and two sons, Eric Todd Ellis and Patrick Ellis; Sophia was a faithful servant of God; a devoted Mother, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother, her loving and caring spirit reached out and touched so many lives as she tried to help anyone she could; she was the life of the party and loved to dance; she was a homemaker while her children were young, and later worked outside of the home with the IRS, Carr Elementary School, and eventually the Federal Government where she retired after 29 years in June 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia kept an immaculate home that was warm, loving and truly a place of gathering for family and friends; she was well known for her great cooking skills and hosting annual holiday feasts; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia’s health started to decline in 2011; she decided to relocate to Georgia to live with her daughter/caregiver; God called Sophia called home from this life to eternal life on July 1, 2017, at Church Home Healthcare & Rehabilitation; she was 86 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia is preceded in death by her parents, an infant brother, her husband Ernest Ellis, a son Patrick, and grandson, Julian; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophia leaves to cherish her memory, two children, Eric Todd Ellis (Doriane) of St. Louis, MO; Ireland Kimberly Heron of Bonaire, GA; 2 grandchildren, Kristopher T. Ellis (Ashley) of St. Louis, MO, Eric C. Heron (Jennifer) of Kathleen, GA; 3 great-grandchildren, Kaden, Savannah, & Eden Ellis of St. Louis, MO; 2 Sister-in-laws, Louise Ellis, of Hattiesburg, MS, Emma Ellis of Muskegon, Michigan, 1 Brother-in-law, Benjamin Ellis also of Hattiesburg, MS; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins Helen “Till” Levels, Elaine Cole, Dorothy Sheets & Alma Reynolds of St. Louis, MO; and friends; special mention to dear, lifelong and faithful friends: Jeanette Luckey, Thelma Brown, Yvonne Hampton, the families of the late Warnetta Ivy, Melverna Shelton, & Elnora Mitchell; and personal home nurse, Mrs. Sharline Williams.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to reflect on the life of Sophia J. Ellis and we offer our deepest condolences to her family and friends. 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 at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 14th day of July, 2017, by:

**The Honorable Jeffery Boyd, 22nd Ward Alderman**

Adopted this the 14th day of July, 2017, as attested by:

---

Donna Evans-Booker  
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

---

Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen