

RESOLUTION 135
The Spanish Society
90th Year Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Spanish Society was started in May, 1927 by a group of about 25 sports minded young Spaniards that fled a country in civil war looking for a better life. The majority of Spaniards worked in the smelting factories in Spain. St. Louis and east of the river were prime areas to settle and practice their craft. The club was assembled to be a meeting place and refuge for those that immigrated over; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1928, it was incorporated under the laws of Missouri, as a non-profit sharing organization to foster instruction, recreation and sports for its members. The Spanish Society teams and players are legendary throughout the St. Louis area, many players being enshrined to the St. Louis Baseball and Soccer Hall of Fames; and

WHEREAS, due to the untiring efforts of the original members- plays, entertainments and dances were held to raise funds, and in the year 1937, it erected its own home at 7107 Michigan Ave, where it stands to this day. A one story building, with a 450 capacity auditorium, a bar area with recreation areas. The building is more of a civic pride to its members; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the society housed and fed hundreds of Spanish refugees for the Red Cross and offers its facilities for any civic emergency. As of now, our membership hovers somewhere around 100+. Although the true Spaniards are not around anymore, their blood runs very thick. Brian Kestler, great grandson of charter member Benito "Chic Fernandez serves as President of the organization; and

WHEREAS, the Spanish Society is honored to be a member of the St. Louis community for 90 years and hopes to continue for at least that much longer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we hereby pause in our deliberations to recognize the 90th Anniversary of The Spanish Society 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 commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 17th day of September, 2017 by:

The Honorable Sarah Wood Martin, Alderman 11th Ward

Adopted this 17th day of September, 2017 as attested by:

Board of Aldermen
Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen