

RESOLUTION 136
Mrs. Norma W. Leggette

WHEREAS, Norma Woodruff was born September 5, 1934 to Jesse and Pineter Woodruff in St. Louis, Missouri, the forth oldest of five girls, Allene, Geraline, Marie, and Jessie Mae; and

WHEREAS, Norma and her four siblings known as the “Five Woodruff Girls” often accompanied her father to Pleasant Green MB Church with Norma joining Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church and being baptized there by Rev. G. H Pruitt; and

WHEREAS, Norma was educated in the St. Louis Public School system, graduating from Patrick Henry Elementary School and Vashon High School in 1950. In the days of segregation there were only two high schools black students could attend that being Vashon or Charles Sumner High School. Norma went on to attend Stowe Teacher’s College and St. Louis Business College where she finished at the top of her class as Valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, In 1952 Norma met, John F. Leggette, and after a romantic courtship they were united in holy matrimony on October 25, 1953 at Pleasant Green MB Church by Rev. Dr. G.H. Pruitt. God blessed their union with four beautiful children: Lita, Johnetta, Lori and John W.; and

WHEREAS, Norma worked at Fenwick Fashions as a floor operator for handbags and shoe décor for over 20 years until the company closed in the early 70’s. Her professional employment would also include Oxford Penda Flex, St. Louis Paper and Box Company, and The St. Louis Board of Education. She was also a Licensed Funeral Director with Cunningham and Moore Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, Norma became involved in the political arena with her older sister Marie Fowler campaigning for and working with prominent political figures such as Congressman William “Bill” Clay Sr., State Senator Gwen Giles, Pearlie Evans and Activist Dick Gregory; and

WHEREAS, Norma wanted to effect change and became a Block Captain for Block Unit #111, a position she held for over 10 years. During her tenure as Block Captain, she was involved with the Yeatman District Community Conference, an organization that promoted economic development in low income neighborhoods such as Jeff Vander Lou and The Ville Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, While working with YDCC that Norma become lifelong friends with three wise women who all shared the dream of changing the plight of north St. Louis, Elnora Woodson, Henrietta Nelson, and Ruby White and they became known as the “Four Musketeers and together they made an impact on those we served in community and abroad ; and

WHEREAS, Norma’s future involvement would include working with such organizations as: West End Community Conference, Northside Preservation Commission, The Greater Ville Redevelopment Organization, The Urban League, and The Coalition of 100 Black Woman and Daisy McFowland and the 4th Ward Democratic Organization. In 1979 Norma became Daisy’s campaign manager and helped her win the 4th Ward Aldermanic seat. In 1993, Norma was elected Democratic Committeewoman of the 4th Ward a position she held for some 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Norma was often found of saying, “What I leaned in life was the value of true friendship and the importance of seeing the good in all people. My goal and mission was to help somebody as I passed along so that my living was not in vain. I wanted to WEAR-OUT NOT RUST OUT! When you

wear-out you help somebody, you love somebody. Whereas, when you RUST OUT you have been no good to anyone”; and

WHEREAS, Norma leave to continue her legacy; one son John W. Leggette, three daughters, Lita Taylor (James), Johnetta Leggette, and Lori Robins (Randy), one sister Jessie Mae Franklin, one granddaughter, Whitney Applewhite, three grandsons, Christopher Lindsey, Daniel Goines (Patrice), and Jonathan Goines, three great grandsons, Jerrion Applewhite, Caleb Nelson, and Mason Goines, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and friends and her best friend Elnora Woodson.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members of this Honorable Board of Aldermen join the sponsors of this resolution in expressing their deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Norma W. Leggette upon her passing and take time from conducting the business of The Board of Aldermen for a moment of silence in respect for her passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of this Honorable Board of Aldermen be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution to be present to The family of Ms. Norma W. Leggette at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on this 15th day September, 2017 by:

The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward
The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this 15th day of September, 2017

Board of Aldermen
Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen