

RESOLUTION NUMBER 185
Mildred Pruitt Henderson

WHEREAS, one could crowd an entire sheet of paper, in the smallest print, and barely touch on the abundant life of Mildred Pruitt Henderson; and

WHEREAS, Mildred was born October 18, 1924, the only child to Matthew and Fannie Mae Walton, she was gifted with the old English name “Mildred,” meaning “*gentle strength*”; such strength would become her signature as she made a difference in the lives of everyone who crossed her path; the incredible joy she shared—comforting friends, raising and encouraging generations of family, and working to uplift her community—was infectious; and

WHEREAS, Mildred became a licensed Cosmetologist and represented the State Trade Association for Cosmetologists as Second Vice President, until becoming a caregiver in the mid-1950s; she served as a caregiver until retiring in 1983 with the closing of Koch Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Mildred lived a life of service to others—volunteering at her local library, visiting shut-in senior citizens, and participating in social and political activities; she was a devoted 51-year member of Morning Star Baptist Church; Mildred embraced all cultures and had a heart for everyone—always there to offer a dose of gentle comfort, wisdom, and encouragement; she had a special place in her heart for children, and they surrounded her like stray cats to warm milk, as she readily took them in; and

WHEREAS, her accomplishments and great loves included receiving the Stellar Citizen recognition from District 60 of the Missouri House of Representatives, attending gubernatorial and presidential inaugurations, and traveling the world with her family and the Fun Folks Traveling Club; nothing compared to her monumental success in gifting the world an example of being the loving wife and friend to Otho Henderson for 38 years; doting mother to 10 children, Jean Britton, Jerome Madison (Rosemary), Carolyn Warren, Jacqueline Carr (Melvin), Gregory Walton (Betty), Patricia Pruitt, Adolphus Pruitt, Delphine Pruitt, Antoine Walton, and Pamela Henderson; and a host of grandchildren, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mildred will be remembered for bringing people together with a genuine affection for helping others to become enriched and enlightened; her last “worldwide” appearance was via Facebook, where she brought smiles to thousands as she showcased her learning of “The Whip” and “The Nay Nay” dances; and

WHEREAS, Mildred took pride in the strong foundation she created in her family—a family built on faith, integrity, and a commitment to helping others; everyone who encountered Mildred’s great spirit, felt a sense of belonging and understanding of the strength and power brought by faith in God.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Saint Louis that we pause in our deliberations to remember the life of Ms. Mildred Pruitt Henderson. 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 her family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 21st day of January, 2016, by:

The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this 21st day of January, 2016, as attested by:

Tim O’Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen