

RESOLUTION NUMBER 221
Clayton “Pops” Williams

WHEREAS, Mr. Clayton “Pops” Williams was born August 19, 1925, in Grenada, Mississippi, and departed this earthly life on March 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, he married his wife, Louise, 72 years ago and came to St Louis in 1946; Mr. Williams fathered four children, had nine grandchildren, and a host of great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he trained as a barber at Washington Tech and spent over 15 years as a barber inspector, ensuring that standards were maintained in barbers’ shops throughout the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, Mr. Williams opened Clayton’s Barber Shop at 4163 North Newstead in the City of St. Louis’ 21st Ward, where it has remained in service to the community for over 60 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served three generations of African American men and boys, oftentimes giving haircuts for free when the customer had little or no money; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was affectionately known as Pops and kept the price of haircuts low because he understood that was what the community could afford; and

WHEREAS, Pops always gave of his wisdom, life experience, and nurturing sage advice as a bonus with the haircut; and

WHEREAS, Clayton's Barbershop is now run by three of Mr. Williams’s grandsons; the legacy of excellence in his field of expertise lives on in the 21st Ward.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize the life and service of Mr. Clayton “Pops” Williams, 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 presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of March, 2016, by:

The Honorable Antonio French, Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of March, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O’Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen