

RESOLUTION NUMBER 224
LOUIS H. FORD

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford, a foot soldier for justice, arrested many times for protesting racial injustice in employment and voting rights of blacks in Saint Louis and across this country; and

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford was born on March 12, 1935 in Stampley, Mississippi to Clay Ford and Vera White. Louis spent his early childhood in Chicago with his family and sister Pat DeSavieu. He later came to St. Louis with his mother and grandmother and attended Washington School and Douglass High School; and

WHEREAS, Louis accepted Christ under Reverend Norman E. Owens, Jr. and served on the Prince of Peace Trustee Board for many years. He joined the Order of Mason, Prince Hall, traveling through to 32nd Degree, contributing many volunteer hours to charitable causes throughout St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, growing up, Louis always demonstrated a desire to be a business owner. He had confidence in his ability to be a leader and minority business owner. He desired to be part of the change that was coming to our St. Louis Community. Louis established L & H Ford Exterminators, a pest control company that became one of the best in the City of St. Louis. His company provided training and employment for neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford became a member of “The Congress of Racial Equality” (CORE), an African- American civil rights organization that played a pivotal role for African-Americans in the Civil Rights Movement. He traveled with CORE to protest racial injustices at the World’s Fair in New York. Also, traveling to Mississippi protesting and demonstrating for equal rights in jobs and voting rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Louis was arrested during the Jefferson Bank Demonstration. He laid down on the floor in front of the doors of the Jefferson Bank, located at Jefferson and Washington, to show his disdain for their discriminatory employment policies and practices of refusing to hire African-Americans. Louis was sentenced to serve 365 days in jail for his participation; and

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford has cemented his name in the history books for his role in the Jefferson Bank Demonstration and his photo is currently displayed alongside many others in “The African American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis“ Civil Rights Exhibit at the Missouri History Museum; and

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford was elected as State Representative of the 58th District and served his community in that capacity for 20 years. He also served as 5th Ward Committeeman for 30 years. During his tenure, Louis proudly served with Jordan Chambers, Senator Jet Banks, Senator John Bass and Congressman Lacy Clay. Louis was responsible for getting his family elected to political office. With his guidance and support, Ida M. Ford was elected 5th Ward Committeewoman; April Ford Griffin was elected 5th Ward Alderwoman and Anthony Walker, State Representative 58th District; and

WHEREAS, Louis H. Ford’s commitment to community service and dedication to others has had a positive impact in our greater St. Louis community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we happily pause in our deliberations to recognize Louis H. Ford's for his many years of service to this City and by adoption of this resolution we wish to join all others in honoring him and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 23rd Day of February, 2018 by:

The Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Adopted this 23rd Day of February, 2018 as attested by:

Donna Elliot
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen