

**Resolution Number 225**  
**250th Birthday of the City of St. Louis**

**WHEREAS**, legend has it that on or about February 14, 1764, Rene' Auguste Chouteau (more commonly Auguste Chouteau), a French lad 14 years old, co-founded the great City of St. Louis with his stepfather Pierre de Laclède Liguist (more commonly Pierre Laclède) and 30 other men who cleared a site at what would later become the foot of Walnut Street and which had been selected in November 1763 as a fur trading outpost to exercise a French fur trading monopoly grant in the Missouri Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the selection of St. Louis was political and practical from the beginning. What was to be a fur trading outpost became the Village of St. Louis when Fort de Chartes on the east side of the Mississippi River, where Pierre Laclède & Auguste Chouteau were wintering, was turned over to the British in 1763, so it was resolved to go to the west bank of the Mississippi River, which they believed to be controlled by France. Once finding the area at the confluence of the Missouri & Mississippi Rivers too marshy, Pierre Laclède moved 15 miles downriver to the first elevated and accessible site of woodland and prairie area; and

**WHEREAS**, the advantages of the site of our City of St. Louis and its great region have been known at least as far back as the Mississippian Culture of the 8th to 12th centuries with vestiges of that culture reflected in the remaining Cahokia Mounds in Illinois and the one Sugar Loaf Mound remaining in St. Louis from a network of Mounds that once provided the appellation of our fair city as Mound City. Pierre Laclède prophetically pronounced (translated): "I HAVE FOUND A SITUATION WHERE I AM GOING TO FORM A SETTLEMENT WHICH MIGHT BECOME, HEREAFTER, ONE OF THE FINEST CITIES IN AMERICA --SO MANY ADVANTAGES ARE EMBRACED IN ITS SITE, BY ITS LOCALITY AND CENTRAL POSITION, FOR FORMING SETTLEMENTS . "

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis was named after King Louis IX of France, patron saint of King Louis XV, whom Pierre Laclède had served as a soldier before leaving Bedous, France; and

**WHEREAS**, the once small village of St. Louis became the Gateway to the West and the host of the Olympics and Louisiana Purchase Exposition (World's Fair) in 1904; it is now a center of commerce; transportation hub; a progressing leader in biotechnology and life sciences; host of medical research; center of higher education; recognized entrepreneurial center; known for financial services; home of a world famous zoo, botanical garden, art museum, and science center; and boasts a number of Fortune 500 companies; and

**WHEREAS**, whether you call it a sestercentennial, semiquincentennial, or bicenquingenary, ST. LOUIS IS CELEBRATING ITS 250TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 14, 2014, and preparing for its better days to come.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 250th birthday of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis region. We hope that all will celebrate this momentous occasion, take this opportunity to be grateful for all of the blessings bestowed on our region, and fly the flag of the City of St. Louis. We further direct the Clerk of the Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of the proceedings and further to prepare two commemorative copies to the end that one may be presented to the full Board of Aldermen and the other to the Mayor, both

for permanent display in the Board of Aldermen Chambers and City Hall Rotunda, respectively.

Introduced on the 14th day of February 14, 2014 by:

**Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 14<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19<sup>th</sup> Ward

Adopted this the 14th day of February, 2014 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen