

RESOLUTION 230
LIFE REFLECTIONS OF PERCY J. HAYES

WHEREAS, Percy Jackson Hayes, a phenomenal and very dear man, was born October 9, 1921 in Tchula, Mississippi to Will and Elizabeth Hayes. He was the third of fourteen children; and

WHEREAS, he completed his elementary education in Lexington, Mississippi and high school education in St. Louis, Missouri at Washington Technical School. He, then, went on to complete two years of college at St. Louis University, with Psychology as his main course of study; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving as Chaplain at every base on which he was stationed. He attained the rank of Private First Class (PFC), earning five Bronze Stars, and was honorably discharged after serving three years during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Jack or PJ, as he is fondly called by many, married Bertha Lee Murff, July 27, 1947. They purchased their first and only home in 1954. To this union four children (three daughters and one son) were born; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Boy Scout leader fifty-one years. During those years, he served over fifteen hundred boys, many of whom have advanced to become lawyers, judges, policemen, successful businessmen, and ministers. He, also, served as a trainer for Scoutmasters; and

WHEREAS, his employment consisted of working for General Motors thirty-one years on the assembly line, where he was one of the first African-Americans assigned to the position of assembler. Carpentry, however, was his passion. He loved repairing and renovating homes, resulting in the founding of the PJ Hayes Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, as a faithful member of New Cote Brilliante Church of God, he served as Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, and Usher. He, also, assisted with the upkeep of properties held by the church. Singing was one of his favorite things to do. In his earlier years, he served as a leader with the Veterans Four and the Tchula Jubilee; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife of seventy-one years, Bertha Lee Hayes; three daughters, Angelene Hayes, Gloria J. Thomas, and Madeleine E. Hayes-Williams; one son, Percy L. Hayes; four grandchildren, Cain-Aten Hayes (Denise), David J. Thomas (Angela), Nicolas A. Williams, and Cameron A. Williams; four great-grandchildren, Matthew T. Hayes, Nena E. Hayes, Miles J. Thomas, and Elijah J. Thomas; two sisters, Christine Drane (Theodore) and Jeanie Smith; one brother, Rhodolphis Hayes; two sisters-in-law, Mamie Hayes and Penny Hayes; many nieces and nephews, a host of cousins, many lifelong friends and a wonderful church family; and

WHEREAS, Percy Jackson Hayes transitioned to his heavenly home, Tuesday, January 15, 2019. He was a friend to everyone, loved by all and will be greatly missed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to join the family and friends of Percy Jackson Hayes to recognize and reflect on his life. 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 memorial copy to the end that it may be presented to the family of Percy Jackson Hayes at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 25th day of January, 2019 by:

The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this 25th day of January, 2019 as attested by:

Louis Galli
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen