

Resolution Number 234
Sister Mary Antona Ebo

WHEREAS, Sister Antona was born in Bloomington, Illinois on April 10, 1924 and was raised in the Baptist Church. Her mother died when she was four and she went to work with her father. At the age of six, her father sent her and her siblings to be cared for at a children's home, where she converted to Catholicism later in her childhood; and

WHEREAS, in 1942 she found her place in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis; soon after in 1946 she became one of the first three African-American women to join the Sisters of Mary (now the Franciscan Sisters of Mary). In 1962, she earned a degree in medical records administration and two years later she earned her Master's Degree from St. Louis University. During this time, Sr. Ebo became the director of medical records department at St. Mary's Hospital. She was the first African-American supervisor in charge of any department at St. Mary's; and

WHEREAS, on March 10th, 1965, three days following "Bloody Sunday", she marched with a contingent of 51 people from St. Louis to Selma, Alabama at the request of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and as an answer to the appeal of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they marched to demand equal voting rights for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, soon after Selma, Sr. Ebo became the first African-American woman religious leader to be in charge of a Catholic hospital in this country. In 1967, she was appointed as the executive director of the St. Clare Hospital in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Sr. Ebo has earned many awards for being a trailblazer and living legend, she has given speeches all over the country. In 1989, the National Black Sisters' Conference presented her with the Harriet Tubman Award, honoring her as someone "called to be a Moses to the people." Five universities have awarded her honorary doctorates, including St. Louis University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in 2010, yet, throughout her life she has lived by the expression, "Give God the glory and give her the prayers."

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor Sr. Mary Antona Ebo for her outstanding contributions to our City, and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on February 28th, 2014 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted February 28th, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen