

RESOLUTION 238
DONALD G. SCHERER

WHEREAS, Donald G. Scherer was born in St. Louis November 20, 1948 the eldest of two children, to the parents of Gilbert and Evelyn Scherer; and

WHEREAS, Don grew up in Webster Groves, graduated Webster Groves Class of 1966 and went on to complete higher education, earning his BS degree in Business specializing in Production Management from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 1971; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Don enlisted in the Army National Guard; after training, was assigned to Horton, Kansas, Specialist Four E4 Battery B Second Battalion 130th Field Artillery until 1973; transferred to Missouri Air National Guard, 239th Mobil Communications unit at Robertson Air National Guard Base, St. Louis, Missouri; Honorably Discharged from the Air National Guard in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Don Married Jill Maurer on October 25, 1975. They have two daughters- Katie and Emily. Jill is an Occupational Therapist, recently retired following a 33-year career with St. Anthony's Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Don's interest in hardware comes from his father who instilled in Don a love for mechanics, understanding of how things work and the satisfaction of skillfully problem solving any issue; and

WHEREAS, Don's mother's family founded Mardel Hardware, formerly located in St. Louis Hills; and

WHEREAS, Oak Hill Hardware was first founded as Edw. A. Morgan Hardware Company on May 8, 1931; and

WHEREAS, Don became a co-owner of Oak Hill Hardware and Paint Co., Inc.—more affectionately known as “The Store”—when it was incorporated May 1, 1975. Don has been the sole owner since 1996; and

WHEREAS, for over 42 years, Don, Jill, their daughters, and both Don and Jill's parents have been a part of “The Store;” and

WHEREAS, the success of Oak Hill Hardware and Paint Co., Inc. has been due to Don's ability to survive the challenges brought on by economic downturns and a continually changing hardware industry while providing customers with service and hardware leadership; and

WHEREAS, Oak Hill Hardware and Paint Co., Inc. has been highly respected by the community for its leadership role as a retailer in the Tower Grove South area of South St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Don has assisted area schools with teaching aids, Scout troops with badge requirements and has been a supporter of local churches and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Don and Oak Hill Hardware and Paint Co., Inc. has been an exemplary employer, offering competitive wages and benefits and training employees in dedicated work ethics of providing outstanding customer service and product knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Tim Murphy, assistant manager, was with Oak Hill Hardware for 19 years—a testimonial to employee satisfaction and company loyalty; and

WHEREAS, from 1976 to 2017, Don had invested in and employed 70 + people with jobs and work experience; and

WHEREAS, Don relates his success to family support, good employees and good customers; and

WHEREAS, Oak Hill Hardware and Paint Co., Inc. was voted “Best Hardware Store” by the Riverfront Times Best in St. Louis 2012; and

WHEREAS, since Don’s announcement of retirement and store closing in October 2017, an outpouring of well wishes and hardware memories have continued to be received, complimenting Don and Oak Hill Hardware for its friendliness, old time courtesy, and helpfulness. For Don, it is all in a day’s work and a day well spent; and

WHEREAS, while Don’s future is yet to be determined, it will include family, the upcoming joy of grand-parenthood, trips to Michigan, collecting vintage photos, staying connected with his many employees and customer-turned-friends, and volunteering his time and talents in thankfulness for a life richly blessed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Don Scherer for his contribution to the St. Louis community and congratulate him in his retirement and 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 commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 2nd day of March, 2018, by:

The Honorable Megan E.Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2018, as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Interim Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen