

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 253
FIRE CHIEF JOSEPH W. MORGAN**

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen recognizes the life of Joseph W. Morgan and his dedication to the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Morgan was the first and only St. Louis Fire Chief to be killed in front-line performance of duty; the coverage of his 1943 death and funeral were of regal stature; and

WHEREAS, Chief Morgan's sudden death occurred on March 20, 1943 when a 5-story building of Goodwill Industries at 713 Howard Street collapsed; concerned for the safety of his men, he climbed the fire escape to warn them to get out of the building; the brick wall collapsed and he fell 20 feet to his death; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis Star-Times article dated March 22, 1943, reported, "The memory of such a man should long be honored in the community, not only out of gratitude, but as an inspiration to others;" and in the case of Chief Morgan, an especially fitting memorial suggests itself at once; and

WHEREAS, Chief Morgan joined the St. Louis Fire Department in 1913; in 1917, he left the department and entered the Army to serve as Chief Fire Inspector at Camp Funsten, Kansas; Chief Morgan rejoined the department after World War I and in 1921 was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Engine Company No. 41 at Eleventh and Lucas Avenue; two years later, he was promoted to Captain and commanded an engine company at Twelfth and Spruce; the pinnacle of his career was achieved when he was appointed Chief by Mayor Becker in August 1941; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Morgan has a significant lineage of fire fighting in his family; his father was a Lieutenant for the St. Louis Fire Department and both his sons, Joseph and William went on to be Fire Chiefs in Clayton and Olivette, respectively; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we recognize Fire Chief Morgan and remember his legacy in the City of St. Louis and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further prepare a memorial copy to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 20th day of March 2018 by:

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 20th day of March, 2018, as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Interim Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

