

RESOLUTION NUMBER 156
CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. NORMAN R. SEAY

WHEREAS, this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis is saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Norman R. Seay a legend in the St. Louis community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Seay was an active a dedicated advocate and fighter for justice for African-Americans in the City of St. Louis being an active member and leader in the Civil Rights movement; and

WHEREAS, his contribution to this City and region has made a profound impact changing segregation laws, uplifting the African-American community and fighting to end legalized racial discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Seay was a founding member of the St. Louis Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality and through his leadership spearheaded non-violent demonstrations aimed at ending racial discrimination in downtown department stores and lunch counters; and

WHEREAS, based upon his work a new City ordinance was passed that desegregated all public eating establishments and department stores; and

WHEREAS, one of the most famous of his efforts was the August 1963 protest of the Jefferson bank designed to cause all banks and financial institutions to hire African-American workers a goal which was achieved; and

WHEREAS, during the Jefferson Bank demonstration Mr. Seay was arrested and spent 90 days in jail and during that time observed the idleness of the inmates. Being an educator and a teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools Mr. Seay and after his release requested and got permission to a school within the jail facility; and

WHEREAS, because of Mr. Seay's dedication and sacrifice toward ending racism that resulted in him spending 90 days in jail Mr. Seay lost his job with the St. Louis Public Schools and was unable to find employment in the area; and

WHEREAS, he left the City and in 1974 and accepted a federal government position in Rockville, Maryland as an Equal Employment Specialist in the Federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare returning to St. Louis in 1984; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 Mr. Seay was instrumental in organizing the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Committee which pushed for the creation of a national Dr. King Holiday and also caused the renaming of Easton Avenue Dr. Martin Luther King Drive; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Seay was a member of several organizations that included Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, NAACP, CORE and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity just to name a few. He has also held the position of president of the Urban League's Federation of Block Units. He served these organizations diligently until his health began to fail; and

WHEREAS, Norman Seay or as he would introduce himself, Seay Norman R., was the first of three children born to Mary Seay Webb on February 18, 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was baptized at a very early age at True Light Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Riley C. Clopton. He was a proud member of True Light for over 75 years; and

WHEREAS, he received his secondary education through the Saint Louis Public Schools System, graduating January 26, 1949 with honors from Vashon High School. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Stowe Teacher's College in Saint Louis, Missouri and a Master's Degree in Education from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. After college, he served two years in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Norman leaves heart felt memories with his brother, Kenneth W. Webb (Maggie); a very devoted and loving sister who diligently cared for him during his illness, Barbara J. Webb; loving nieces Janelle M. Nichols, Karen McKissic and Kimberly Webb; very devoted and loving nephews, John A. Nichols Jr.(Nichole) and Norman C Walker; his loving great nieces and great nephews; three lifelong friends: Robert Hudson, Dean William Pearson and Ivory Ellison; the True Light MB Church Family; and many other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, all the achievements of a true soldier for justice that typified the life and dedication of Mr. Seay cannot be covered in any one document but demands recognition and attention by a City truly grateful.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis pause in our deliberations to send condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Norman Seay and by adoption of Resolution wish to recognize, commend, celebrate and honor his great works on our behalf. 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 might be presented to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced this 18th day of October, 2019 by:
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Adopted this 18th day of October, 2019 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen