

RESOLUTION NUMBER 21

Frank "Skip" Berger

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Frank "Skip" Berger served in the United States Army during the Vietnam era, and after being discharged from the Army he went on to further serve his country in the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, when his service with the armed forces was over, he continued to serve as a member of the American Legion. For the past 25 years he has served in many positions. He was Post Commander in 1998 and again in 2009. He has been Post Adjutant for at least ten years, plus he has at one time or another been elected to every office in the post. He was instrumental in forming the Legionette Dance Team, and also the practice of giving chits to the patients at the Jefferson Barracks V.A. Hospital. Skip worked for a number of years with the Soldiers Memorial and has served as the Chaplain with the District Guard of Honor. As a member of District 11 and 12 he served as the Chaplain for many years, and was also the Sergeant-at-Arms; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Berger was responsible for the World War I Memorial at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. This memorial has reached a significant goal of preserving a vital piece of St. Louis history to honor the fallen WWI soldiers and the mothers who loved them. After WWI the Gold Star Mothers of St. Louis created a Court of Honor, with bronze medallions set into the parkway in the middle of North Kingshighway Boulevard representing every St. Louisan who died in WWI; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980's these medallions were being thrown away. Skip, along with other members of Rolla-Calcaterra, Post 15 saved 752 of the original 1,185 bronze plaques and he personally documented the 433 that were lost. Since that time Skip has had a single mission to find an appropriate home for the medallions. As of September 30, 2012 his mission has been fulfilled. That Sunday, which was also Gold Star Mother's Day, was the day the World War I Court of Honor Memorial was officially dedicated at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. This was also the day Skip's dreams became finalized; and

WHEREAS, Skip also worked to restore a truck in memory of L. Cpl. Phillip Vinnedge a Marine who lost his life in Iraq. Julie, Phillip's mother is also the president of the St. Louis Gold Star Mothers; and

WHEREAS, the 11/12 District of St. Louis, Department of Missouri, of the American Legion is happy and pleased to bestow upon Frank "Skip" Berger, the honor of Legionnaire of the Year 2014.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to and recognize the many accomplishments and achievements of Mr. Frank "Skip" Berger and we 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 on the 2nd day of May, 2014 by:

Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Adopted this the 2nd day of May, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen