

RESOLUTION NO. 37
William Wirtel, Legionnaire of the Year

WHEREAS, Barlog Kuszaj Zero Memorial Post 422 of the American Legion, 11th/12th District, is honoring Mr. William Wirtel on May 27 for being named the District's Legionnaire of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wirtel, better known as Mr. Bill, joined the American Legion Post 422 in 2001 after being a member of post 1000 for 12 years; Post 422 awarded him a life membership in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bill was inducted into the Army on 20 April 1953 and served as a Company Administrative Supervisor Clerk in Germany during the Korean War; he rose to the rank of Corporal before his honorable discharge on 18 March 1955; and

WHEREAS, as a Legionnaire and member of Post 422, Mr. Bill, along with his wife, Marlene, and his daughter Sue Stone, formed the post's first ladies auxiliary in January 2006; to date, the auxiliary has sent more than 430 Packages overseas to aid our active military; it is now the most active Auxiliary in the District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bill re-established Post 422's bingo events at the VA Medical Center at Jefferson Barracks; he helped establish monthly family hours with live music, food, and beverages; he opened Post 422 as a local polling place for two precincts in our area; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Post 422's Chaplain, and has been asked to offer prayers on numerous civic occasions, including a personal request by President Lewis Reed to open the fall session of the Board on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bill is Vice President of Soulard AMBUCS, the first chapter in the state of Missouri to raise money to purchase therapeutic trykes for disabled veterans, and the chapter has presented more than 25 trykes to date; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wirtel's dedication, perseverance, and outstanding work brought awareness to the American Legion, to the community of Soulard, and the City of St. Louis; membership in the American Legion and Post 422 in particular continues to grow due to his efforts.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Mr. William Wirtel and to thank him for his dedication to the American Legion and to the City of St. Louis. 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 memorial copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 26th day of May, 2016, by:

The Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Adopted this the 26th day of May, 2016, as attested:

Timothy G. O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen