

RESOLUTION NUMBER 41

Erna Ursula Martin

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to note the passing of St. Louis resident, Erna Ursula Martin; and

WHEREAS, Erna Ursula Theriot Martin was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 31, 1920 to the union of Augusta Reine and William J. Theriot. She was baptized and confirmed at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in New Orleans. She attended Corpus Christi Catholic Grade School, Xavier Prep High School and Straight Business College; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Erna came to St. Louis to marry Clifton P. Martin, after asking permission from her mother. They were married on April 6, 1942 at St. Malachy Catholic Church. In July 1942, Clifton was drafted into the U.S. Army, and served in the Philippines during World War II. Erna returned to New Orleans where Janice and Carmele were born. Jean Paula, Clifton, Jr. and Claire were born in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Erna and Clifton moved on Belle Glade Avenue in the Ville neighborhood in 1942 and raised their family. Her door and table were always open to her neighbors and church family. Traditional family customs were Sunday dinners; backyard barbecues and your favorite birthday dinner with cake and ice cream for each family member. She was active in her neighborhood block unit, children's schools and St. Matthew Church. She also voted in every political election until 2009; and

WHEREAS, Erna was touched by faith and attended daily Mass at St. Matthew even though in the early years she was restricted to the back four pews. She never let that stop her from practicing her faith. Erna was one of the first black parishioners to join the Ladies Sodality at St. Matthew. As a member of the Sodality, she helped with the parish card party, fish fries, ice cream socials, and she sold religious articles before and after Mass on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, Erna was a homemaker until 1973, when she helped start Northside Community Center. She was the nutrition director for the senior dining and Meals-On-Wheels program for over 25 years; and

WHEREAS, her fondest memory was attending her children and grandchildren high school and college graduations. Each grandchild received a personal crocheted afghan when they went off to college; and

WHEREAS, Erna was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, sisters and grandson. She will always be remembered by her children; Janice (Walter) Wesley, Carmele (Jerry) Hall, Jean Anthony, Clifton (Carolyn) Martin, Jr., Claire Hay. Her ten grandchildren: Carmela (Robert) Richard, Christine Anthony, Jason (Allyson) Hall, Vanessa Wesley, Crystal (Eric) Nicholson, Marvin (Tracey) Hay, Choendal (Geferl) Zsaretti, Kacey (Javon) Johnson, Kelly (Alprentice) Young and Karmyn Martin. Also, ten great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions of Erna Ursula Martin to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with her many friends in expressing our sorrow at her passing, 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Martin family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 8th day of June, 2012 by:

Honorable Samuel L. Moore Alderman 4th Ward

Adopted this the 8th day of June, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen