

RESOLUTION NO. 54

Muhammad Ali

WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali was The Greatest; and

WHEREAS, he graced the squared circle and our great nation with extraordinary talent; so too he fought injustice, he stood up for his convictions, and he was willing to sacrifice his own freedom for his beliefs; and

WHEREAS, while his body succumbed on June 3, Muhammad Ali lives on in our hearts, our minds, and our souls; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has been particularly blessed this year by a play based on the life of Muhammad Ali: “And In This Corner ... Cassius Clay,” put on by Metro Theater Company; the play tells the story of the young Muhammad Ali as he struggled against segregation and took up boxing; and

WHEREAS, the play has captured the imaginations of thousands of our region’s schoolchildren, some of whom were introduced for the first time to the story of one of our greatest Americans; and

WHEREAS, playwright Idris Goodwin and actor Trigney Morgan brought the young Muhammad Ali to life, show after show; and the production was much more than just a play: after a performance, the actors would speak to the audience and answer questions about the play; the theater company held panel discussions with activists from the 1960s and today, invited in former and current boxing coaches to discuss their programs and their mentoring of children, and founded The Cassius Project, which is focused on educating the region; and

WHEREAS, our society benefited from Muhammad Ali’s many decades in public life, but as the production of “And In This Corner ... Cassius Clay” has shown us, we are still benefiting from his wisdom and from his inspiration—his light shall never flicker.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to offer our sincerest condolences to the family of Muhammad Ali and express our gratitude to the Metro Theater Company’s efforts to keep his light shining. 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 may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 10th day of June, 2016, by:

The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis Board of Aldermen
The Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
The Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
The Honorable Tammika Hubbard, Alderwoman 5th Ward
The Honorable Jack Coatar, Alderman 7th Ward
The Honorable Stephen Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
The Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward
The Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
The Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward

The Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward
The Honorable Megan-Ellyia Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward
The Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
The Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
The Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
The Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
The Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
The Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this 10th day of June, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen