

**Resolution 113**  
**RICHARD “DICK” GREGORY**

**WHEREAS**, we pause today to note the passing and honor the life of Richard Claxton Gregory, comedic and civil rights icon, and distinguished son of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, Gregory was born October 12, 1932 in the City of St. Louis, Missouri. In 1959, he married Lillian Smith and together they had ten children; and

**WHEREAS**, Gregory was a member of the Sumner High School track team. He broke several school records which earned him a scholarship to Southern Illinois University in 1951. He was afterward drafted into the army where he began performing as a comedian. Mr. Gregory later made his name as a comedian in Chicago nightclubs while living with his brother Presley; and

**WHEREAS**, by the 1960's Gregory had become a national comedy headliner known for his sophisticated and layered humor which took on issues of race – blazing trails in the fight for African American equality however, he gave up performing full-time to become more involved in the Civil Rights Movement; marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leading figures of the movement; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1964 Gregory began his fight for civil rights internationally by traveling to Moscow to protest the Soviet Union's treatment of Black soldiers. In 1967, he ran for Mayor of the City of Chicago and in 1968 ran for President of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career Gregory was a popular and noted spokesman for civil and human rights on college and university campuses. He had his own radio show in Washington, D.C. and was a notable author of several books including *Nigger*, *Up From Nigger* and *Callous On My Soul*; and

**WHEREAS**, the world recognized this man as Dick Gregory.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that upon learning of the passing of this distinguished St. Louisan, we pause to recognize and celebrate the life of Dick Gregory and acknowledge his great comedic talent, his accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of civil and human rights. 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 to the end that it may be presented to the [who?] at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 24th day of August, 2017 by:

**The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward**  
**The Honorable John Collins-Muhammad, Alderman 21st Ward**

Adopted this 24th day of August, 2017 as attested by:

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Donna Elliot  
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen