

RESOLUTION NUMBER 126
Reflections of Robert Shands

WHEREAS, Robert Lee Shands Jr. was born on August 22, 1952 in St. Louis, Mo. to the union of Robert Lee Shands Sr. and Dorothy Scott-Shands. Both parents and son Rashad Shands preceded him in death. He confessed his faith in Christ and was baptized at Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Robert was educated in the St. Louis Public Schools system where he attended Sumner High and graduated from University City High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corp, where he received an honorable discharge after earning a National Defense Service Medal. Robert was a graduate of Webster University receiving his Bachelors in Anthropology May 1976; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Robert became a proud member of the St. Louis Fire Department. He served on the Rescue Squad where his specialty was the “Jaws of Life.” which was used to rescue victims from wrecked vehicles serving proudly until he retired. He came out of retirement for a short time to become a substitute teacher. Later he worked for Family Courts as a Youth Leader II; and

WHEREAS, Robert enjoyed being a part of his Masonic Lodge where he served as a Past Master of the Westgate 95. He also enjoyed his brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi. Beta Nu Chapter, where he pledged on line by himself; and

WHEREAS, Robert met Mary at the laundromat, eyes sparked and it was a colorful explosion. They were joined in matrimony, March 7, 1987, and rode off in a horse and buggy; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memories his loving and faithful wife of 28 years, Mary Howard Shands, (sons) Kamau Whitfield and Anwar Shands, (daughter) Zion Shands (granddaughters)) Aya Shands, Kali Whitfield, (grandsons) Dey’Shawn Waters, Na’eem Shands, (aunt) Ollie Collins (George), Aunt Sarah Jane Green of New York and His Spiritual Advisor Elder Jones.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to reflect on the life of Robert Shands 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 commemorative copy for presentation to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 23rd day of October, 2015 by:

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Adopted this the 23rd day of October, 2015, as attested by:

Donna Evans-Booker
Assistant Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen