

RESOLUTION NUMBER 139

Mother Geneva Gentry

WHEREAS, Mother Geneva Gentry was born on May 12, 1912 in Waynesboro, Mississippi. She was the only child born to the late Daisy (Robinson) Dent. Mother Gentry dedicated her life to the Lord at an early age. She moved to St. Louis with her mother at the age of nine. She was one of the first students to attend the Vashon High School at its original location on Laclede Avenue. Mother Gentry married the late Joshua Gentry in 1942. To this union two children were born, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph Gentry and Dr. Marabeth Gentry. After 48 years of marriage, the Lord called Brother Gentry home on March 27, 1990; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 14, after an invitation from Reverend Pa Allen, she joined Christ's Southern Mission Baptist Church under the Pastorate of the late Reverend Herman Gore, Sr. Mother Gentry had great love and respect for the late Reverend Herman Gore, Jr. and her current pastor, the Reverend Lamarr Goldman. At Christ's Southern Mission, she served as President of the Willing Workers Ministry for over 60 years, member of the Mother's Board, sponsor of the Mother Gore's Mission (MGM) Ministry, Mother of the Adult Choir and served on the Board of the Mother Gore Scholarship Committee. Under Reverend Gore's leadership, she became a missionary and later traveled with him doing the work of an evangelist. A part of this work was as a member of the *Golden Voice Team* which was an evangelistic singing ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, Mother Gentry became active in the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Inc. (NCGCC) which was founded by the late Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey. It was at the Dorsey Convention where Mother Gentry was introduced by the late Madam Fannie Foster to the handsome and illustrious Joshua Gentry, the love of her life. Mother Gentry loved young people; it was out of this love that following the death of Brother Gentry, she started a scholarship fund at the NCGCC in his name to aid young people in reaching their educational goals. Mother Gentry served as the National Consecration Coordinator for the convention. She was the oldest living member and beloved Mother of the convention. As the Lord would have it, Mother Gentry along with her spiritual son, the late Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr. attended their last convention together in Orlando, Florida in August of 2010. In 1943, Mother Gentry and her husband organized "*When Singers Meet, Inc.*" a gospel music extravaganza. This annual event, held on the first Sunday in March, spotlights local and national gospel artists; and

WHEREAS, in the community, Mother Gentry was a Charter Member and Chaplain in the 1960s and 70s of the Yeatman District Community Corporation and helped organize the Yeatman Parent-Child Center. This center served families and unwed mothers (which she had a fond love for). She served as Co-Chairman of the Women's Division of the Billy Graham Crusade in 1973. She also gave service to the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Mission which began in 1967. Mother Gentry was a member and volunteer worker for the Home Mission and Evangelistic Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. She was a Lifetime Member of the Board of Volunteers of the Metropolitan Psychiatric Center (formally known as Malcolm-Bliss). She also worked for many years with the late Reverend Joseph D. Linton and the Progressive Baptist Church in their Food for the Hungry Outreach Program; and

WHEREAS, Mother Gentry received numerous awards for her work, some of which included: Gospel Historian Music Award, Dr. Martin Luther King Pioneer Award, Gospel Pioneer Award presented by the Announcers Guild of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, a Lifetime Certificate of Membership to the Gospel Music Workshop of America presented to her by Founder, the late Reverend James Cleveland, 50 Year Service Award from the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, Washington University Continuing Education Award, the Clarence Hayden Music Guild Award, the Heritage Award from the McDonalds Gospel Fest, the MGM Dedicated Service Award and many others, too numerous to name; and

WHEREAS, Mother Geneva Gentry lived a long and glorious life; "*A Legacy of Love*" in which she shared kind smiles, encouraging words, a listening ear and spiritual guidance to many in the St. Louis metropolitan area as well as across the length and breadth of this country. This "*Legacy of Love*" continues through her son, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph Gentry and her daughter, Dr. Marabeth Gentry; two granddaughters, Stephanie Gentry and Janeen (Duane) Gentry-Bowen; four great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren and a host of cousins, spiritual children, her Christ's Southern Mission family, her NCGCC family and many 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 Mother Geneva Gentry 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 Gentry family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.
Introduced on the 18th day of October, 2013 by:

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of October, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen