

RESOLUTION NUMBER 186
Wade Funeral Home 100 Year Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Wade Funeral Home was founded in 1914 by Walter Wade, at a time when there was only three existing funeral homes that would serve African American Families; and

WHEREAS, the ambitious Wade wanted to give superior care and service to all families which was a ground breaking concept in 1914; and

WHEREAS, with the help of his dedicated wife Mary, Walter Wade made Wade Funeral Home the kind of funeral home he dreamed of and they were known for their tireless work ethics and overwhelming warmth; and

WHEREAS, Walter Wade's untimely passing was a tremendous loss to the community however, the funeral home and Wade's tradition lived on as Mary courageously ran the home alone; and

WHEREAS, the Wade's never had children and in the early 1940s Walter Wade's nephew Gilbert Wade Grandberry, returned from the Navy and approached his aunt with a request to purchase the funeral home which she granted the request; and

WHEREAS, the first location of the Wade Funeral Home was on Finney in the City of St. Louis and Mr. G as the nephew was known opened a second location for Wade Funeral Home in Kinloch, MO and then later acquired a third location at 4828 Natural Bridge in the City of St. Louis in the 20th Ward in the mid 1970's and for a short time all three locations were open for business; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grandberry later decided to keep the business in a single location at 4828 Natural Bridge and expand it as the business grew, acquiring the Wade Florist building next door to the West of the funeral home in the 1970s. Then in 1992 Mr. Grandberry seized another opportunity by purchasing and remodeling the 22,500 square foot building to the east of Wade Funeral Home known today as the Twin Chapel which he named in honor of his twin sister Garnette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grandberry was successful in training many of today's successful funeral home owners who got their start at Wade; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 Mr. Grandberry sold his business to the Perpetual Inc. and Mr. Grandberry was named President Emeritus and helped through the transition; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2002 Mr. Grandberry transitioned to glory. However, if he were alive today it is believed that he would be proud of the dedicated staff at Wade where many of the staff who worked for him still carry out his mission of offering superior service to families at their time of need; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2014 Wade Funeral Home and Florist was acquired by the ownership team of Saint Louisan Randy Sanderson and Melvin Bryant just in time to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of Wade Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, Randy Sanderson and Melvin Bryant are committed to continuing the great legacy started by Mr. Grandberry for the next 100 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Honorable Board of Aldermen pause in its deliberations to take time to congratulate Wade Funeral Home on the occasion of it's 100 year Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION be presented to the current owners of the Wade Funeral Home at a time deemed proper by the sponsors of this resolution.

Introduced on the 12th day of December, 2014 by:

Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 12th day of December, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen