

RESOLUTION NUMBER 187

Mary Louise Swims

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to note the passing of longtime St. Louis resident, Mary Louise Swims; and

WHEREAS, Mary Louise Swims was born on September 21, 1931 in Carrollton, Mississippi to Percy and Fannie Bell Robinson. At an early age, Mary demonstrated a love for cooking and would often shoulder the responsibility of cooking for family gatherings, as well as sharing food with neighbors and friends in need; and

WHEREAS, Mary united in Holy Matrimony with L.B. Swims on January 5, 1952 and to this union six children was born, three daughters and three sons. They moved to St. Louis, Missouri in the mid 1950's. Mary worked as a head cook in various restaurants, as well as opening her own restaurant, Mary's Café; and

WHEREAS, she confessed a hope in Christ at Pleasant Grove M.B. Church in Carrollton, Mississippi. Mary later joined Original Friendship M.B. Church under the leadership of Reverend C.V. Smith and continued to serve faithfully under the leadership of Reverend A.M. Smith until her health began to fail; and

WHEREAS, Mary had a special love for family especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren and always made herself available to serve those in need, whether it was loaning a sensitive ear or providing prudent advice to those incarcerated and those in the community. It is well known amongst family, friends and colleagues, that Mary fed and housed hundreds of people down through the years. Mary loved sewing, fishing, playing computer games, gospel singing and most of all serving the Lord; and

WHEREAS, both her parents, her husband, L.B. Swims, one brother, Charles B. Robinson, and one grandson, Anthony Maurice Swims and one granddaughter, Tracey Swims preceded her in death; and

WHEREAS, Mary leaves to cherish her beautiful memory, 6 loving and adoring children: Fannie (Milford) Graphenreed, L.C., Deborah, Sylvia, Tracy, Sr., and Keyran, Sr.; 3 sisters, Lacy McSwain, Helen Jones, and Fannie Thomas; 2 brothers, Henry (Mary Ann) Robinson and Willie (Lucille) Robinson; 1 bother-in-law, six sister-in-laws, 20 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, a host great-great-grandchildren, special God-daughters, Velma Lofties, Earline Tharp, Stella Norise, and Carol Hardin and a host of other relatives, friends and entire church family.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many accomplishments and contributions of Mary Louise Swims 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 Swims family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 26th day of August, 2011 by:

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Adopted this the 26th day of August, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen