

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 222**  
***The Barbara J. Cothran***

**WHEREAS**, this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis has been made aware of the recent passing of neighborhood activists Ms. Barbara J. Cothran affectionately, modestly but honorably known as “BJ”, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Louis has been made a better place to work and live by the actions, sacrifices and dedications of this community concerned woman committed to making the 18<sup>th</sup> ward and all of St. Louis a fun and uplifting destination, and

**WHEREAS**, BJ was born in St. Louis in the historic Millcreek area in 1933 and attended Vashon HS and the Hubbard Business School, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1953 she joined the department of army civilian services in the typing pool of the United States Government where she worked until 1988 when she retired GS13 after 35 years as a systems analyst, and

**WHEREAS**, BJ was married to Clarence Foster and from this union had two loving and dedicated children – Angela Coleman and Deborah Townsend and then later was re-married to now deceased John Cothran with stepchildren John Cothran, Jr., Nola Lee, and Daryl Cothran, and

**WHEREAS**, after raising her children BJ, like her mother before her (Helen Evans), turned her limitless energy, talent, organizing skills and creativity toward community upliftment pursuits where she became active in forming the Vandeventer Citizen’s for a Better Community (VCBC) later becoming its treasurer, vice chair and then its chair an office she held until her passing, and

**WHEREAS**, due to her leadership VCBC completed its planning effort and has now seen new housing and commercial units on North Sarah which was a part of the neighborhood plan and vision, and

**WHEREAS**, her activities are too numerous to place in any one writing but also includes being a board member of I-70 Northwest Development Corporation, George Washington Carver House and many other clubs, boards and organizations, and

**WHEREAS**, because of her excellent and tireless work BJ received many awards including an award from the St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation, St. Louis Salute to Community Leaders Award and the US Department of the Army Meritorious Service just to name a few, and

**WHEREAS**, BJ could mix well in any crowd, loved living, knew how dress and how to have a good time, which is a talent she shared with others, including her like for sewing, crafts, mystery novels, golf, football, traveling and jazz music, with an occasional morning for tea and then maybe an evening for bartending - in her spare time, just for fun, and

**WHEREAS**, because of her efforts and the love she shared we are all made better people and St. Louis has been made a better place to live, work, dine, drink, make merry, tour and enjoy the company of good friends.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and praise the tremendous contributions that Barbara J (BJ) Cothran has made to our community and the entire city and by adoption of this resolution wishes to thank her family for sharing her with us 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 to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2013:

**Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2013 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen