

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 240**  
**The Honorable William “Bill” Clay, Sr.**

**WHEREAS**, on Sunday February 24, 2013, in observance of Black History Month and the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Charles Sumner High School Alumni Association will host their 10th Annual Membership Round-Up. The event will recognize and honor the achievements of some of the City of St. Louis’ African American “Firsts in Their Field” in various political and social positions/roles of distinction; and

**WHEREAS**, the first African-American Representative from Missouri, William “Bill” Clay, Sr., served in the House for more than three decades—longer than any other former black Member of the House. During his extensive tenure, he used his experience as a civil rights activist and labor union representative in St. Louis to promote legislation to help minorities and U.S. workers. Clay zealously represented his impoverished inner-city constituents, who he believed needed a strong voice in Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, as a new Member of the 91st Congress (1969–1971), Clay joined two other African-American freshmen: Representatives Shirley Chisholm of New York and Louis Stokes of Ohio. The three vowed to focus on issues affecting their urban constituents, who they believed had been neglected by the government.; and

**WHEREAS**, he also served on the Committee on House Administration from the 99th to the 103rd Congress (1985–1995), chairing the Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials. Clay reaped the benefits of the House seniority system, rising through the ranks of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee (chairing two subcommittees) to head the full panel during the 102nd and 103rd Congresses (1991–1995) after nine terms of service; and

**WHEREAS**, Clay was one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) formed in 1971. For nearly two decades, he worked to revise the Hatch Act of 1939, which restricted the political activities of federal workers. Clay’s measure, which became law in 1993, amended the Hatch Act, permitting government employees to publicly endorse candidates and to organize political fundraisers, among other rights that were previously prohibited. He also spent several years promoting the Family and Medical Leave Act, which passed earlier the same year, mandating that companies with more than 50 workers offer up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for employees to care for a newborn or attend to a family medical emergency.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Honorable William “Bill” Clay, Sr. and we wish him continued success, achievement and accomplishment 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 8th day of February, 2013 by:

**Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward**

Adopted this 8th day of February, 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