

Resolution Number 241
Otis David Woodard Jr.

WHEREAS, we pause to note the passing of civil rights activist, advocate for the poor, and peace crusader Otis Woodard who was called to his reward on February 13, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Otis David Woodard Jr. was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 9, 1936, the son of Otis Woodard Sr. and Dorothy Mae Woodard; and

WHEREAS, although he left school for a time to work, Otis graduated high school at the age of 15; he joined the Marine Corps for seven years before returning to Alabama where he became a detective; and

WHEREAS, Otis joined the Council of Federated Organizations and began working with students active in the civil rights movement, while working with Dr. King, he served as a field secretary for the Congress of Racial Equality; and

WHEREAS, Otis Woodard continued his activism when he arrived in St. Louis; his family spent its first nights in the basement of a vacant house on Cote Brilliant Avenue, a shorts distance from the corner of Bissell and Strodman Place where he would spend the rest of his life gathering and dispensing food and clothing and offering words of comfort to people in need; and

WHEREAS, Otis Woodard served as the director of Lutheran North St. Louis Outreach and was always brilliantly arrayed in what he called his “uniform to serve the Lord”; every waking hour he was trying to be a giving person and a father figure to all those around him; and

WHEREAS, Otis Woodard leaves behind 26 children, 62 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and four great- great grandchildren to carry on his mission. “From the moment we were born, our father raised us to take over the Outreach,” said his daughter; and

WHEREAS, Otis donated his body to Washington School of Medicine where he was part of a research study that his daughter credits with prolonging his life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to join the many friends and family of Otis David Woodard Jr. on the occasion of his passing. We direct the a resolution of condolence and remembrance be drafted that in some small way expresses our sense of loss and sorrow at his death; and we 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 the family at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 27th day of February, 2015 by:

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Honorable Stephen J. Conway, Alderman 8th Ward

Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Honorable Thomas Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward

Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward

Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward

Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward

Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward

Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this 27th day of February, 2015 as attested by

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen