

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 268**  
**Reverend Joel Kelly Davis**

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Joel Kelly Davis was born April 5, 1915 in Clarendon Arkansas to Paul Kelly and Emma Jackson; and

**WHEREAS**, he was educated in the Arkansas school system and, after relocating to St. Louis, Missouri, attended Vashon High School; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Davis began his career employed by Emerson Electric Company in 1934. In 1945, he entered the United States Navy and was Honorably Discharged in 1947; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Davis continued his career as an employee of the federal government in the Mobility Equipment Command Center, from which he retired after 34 years of dedicated service; and

**WHEREAS**, he entered the ministry as a disciple of the historic Central Baptist Church under the Pastorate of Rev. T. E. Huntley; and

**WHEREAS**, during this time he met Juanita Kathleen Turner and married her in 1952. They enjoyed matrimony for 59 years and had 10 children, resulting in 29 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1956 Reverend Davis founded the Grace Missionary Baptist Church at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Cole Streets. The church family later moved to 2323 Cass and, in an effort to continue his service to the community, Reverend Davis renovated a building and moved to the current location at 2319 Cass; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Davis continued his pastoral service for 48 years, retiring in 2004 and is Pastor Emeritus of Grace Missionary Baptist Church, where his son – Reverend Jonathan K. Davis is presently serving as Pastor; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Joel Kelly Davis is the oldest living active minister in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize Reverend Joel Kelly Davis 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 copy for presentation to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of April, 2015 by:

**Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward**

Adopted this the 9th day of April, 2015 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