

**Resolution Number 317**  
**Louis Henry Ford**

**WHEREAS**, Louis Henry Ford was born on March 12, 1935 in Stampley, Mississippi as the only child of Clay Henry Ford and Vera White; and

**WHEREAS**, as he later relocated to St. Louis to join his mother and became a product of the St. Louis Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, as a young man he developed an displayed a keen interest in entrepreneurship which lead him institute several business ventures; and

**WHEREAS**, Louis Henry Ford also developed a deep sense of commitment to the Civil Rights movement and understood that African Americans deserved the same rights, privileges and entitlements as all other citizens of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this commitment lead him to participate in the historic Jefferson Bank demonstration along with other civil rights leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, because of his leadership and commitment to fight for the equal rights of African American he was unjustly sentenced to serve one year in prison and imposed a fine; and

**WHEREAS**, after serving his sentence did Louis Henry Ford continue his pursuit of equality in our country by focusing of creating employment opportunities for African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, his leadership ability and commitment later lead him throughout the South where he was an active member of the Freedom Fighters and joined the efforts of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Mrs. Coretta Scott King; and

**WHEREAS**, Louis Henry Ford later became a management employee of Bi-State and established a family; and

**WHEREAS**, he also later founded a successful pest control company and became involved in political leadership by being elected and subsequently serving as committeeman for over 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, he was later elected as State Representative of the 58<sup>th</sup> District and served admirably for 24 years which included being the first African American elected as majority whip; and

**WHEREAS**, Louis Henry Ford has been married to Ida Ford, former committeewoman of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward for the past twenty-three years and together they share a family of nine children (including 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman April Ford-Griffin), sixteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren;. and

**WHEREAS**, Louis Henry Ford should be recognized as a “living legend” for his past, present and future contributions to the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri and the United States.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Louis Henry Ford for his stellar accomplishments and commitment to making our region a better place to live and work. We direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that may be presented to our honoree at the time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 17th day of February, 2011 by:

**Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward**

Adopted this the 17th day of February, 2011 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