

RESOLUTION NUMBER 328

Pastor Robert Franklin

WHEREAS, Pastor Robert Maurice Franklin, Sr. was born on March 28, 1933 in Laing, West Virginia. He was the 7th child of 12 children born to James McKinley, a coal miner, and Mabel Pearl (McFadden) Franklin, who passed away during childbirth. With seven brothers, four sisters, and six close cousins, the Franklin family was a force to reckon with. With limited job opportunities in his hometown and not wanting to work the coal mines, Pastor Franklin followed in his older brothers footsteps, whom had served in World War II, and entered the United States Army in 1953. After receiving an honorable discharge in 1955, he continued to serve his country for six additional years in the Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Army, Pastor Franklin moved to Chicago to live with his sister, Elizabeth, and work for U.S. Steel Company. In March 1956, he met the love of his life, Dixie Louise Turner. Less than one year later they were married on January 7, 1957. During the first two years of their marriage, their first set of children was born, Robert Jr., in 1957 and Angelia, in 1958; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Pastor Franklin moved to St. Louis, where he gained employment with the National Lead Company (now Rheox). Pastor Franklin served in several capacities within the Oil and Atomic Workers Union Local 5-152 and was also a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He finally retired from Rheox in 1996 after 34 years of service, giving him more time to devote to his other full time job as Pastor of Greater Fellowship Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, baptized as a child, Pastor Franklin received Christ at an early age at the First Baptist Church of Laing West, Virginia. After arriving in St. Louis, Pastor Franklin joined fellowship with the New Emanuel Baptist Church. With the encouragement of his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Pastor Franklin became very active at New Emanuel. He served as an Usher, Adult Sunday School teacher, Financial Secretary, Deacon and eventually became an Ordained Minister. The Lord then challenged Pastor Franklin to a higher calling as Senior Pastor of Musik Baptist Church, where he served for four years. He then went on to serve as Founder and Senior Pastor of the Greater Fellowship Baptist Church for 35 years. It was during this time in Pastor Franklin's life that God blessed him with two more children, Cecil "Ken", in 1976 and Micah, in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Franklin displayed his devotion through his leadership as Chaplain of the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, President of the Rainbow Coalition , St. Louis Chapter, the Missouri President of the African American Fellowship of Southern Baptists and as a dedicated board member of the Clergy Coalition of Metropolitan St. Louis. Pastor Franklin also participated in The St. Louis NAACP, Progressive Baptists, National Baptists, The St. Louis Ministers' Union, the Metropolitan Ministerial Alliance, Southern Baptists, Metropolitan Ministers' Alliance and the Gospel Men's Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, second only to God, family was the most important thing to Pastor Franklin. He was a devoted husband to Dixie Franklin for 54 years up until the time of his death. Pastor Franklin has been instrumental as a father to his four children and their spouses, as well as the Greater Fellowship young people who became his surrogate children, and his nieces and nephews who saw him as a positive role model. He loved all of his grandchildren, who called him Pawpaw, often spoiling them with candy and other treats. He was so proud of all of them and would brag about them any chance he got; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Franklin was preceded in death by two brothers, Thomas D. (Lena) Franklin and David M. (Maxine) Franklin; and one sister, Sylvia (William) Harris. He leaves to cherish his loving memory: his wife, Dixie; three sons, Robert (Anna) Franklin, Jr., Cecil (Tiffany) Franklin, and Micah Franklin; one daughter, Angelia (Larry) Davis; eleven grandchildren, Robyn, Larry Jr., Kimberly, Jordan, Robert III, Alexis, Micah Jr., Mayah, Mekhi, Elizabeth, and Joshua. He leaves his legacy of love to his five brothers, Cecil (Vivian) Franklin of Cincinnati, OH, William (Betty) Franklin of Warren, OH, Gordon D. (Susie) Franklin of Warren, OH, Donald (Donna) Franklin of Chicago, IL, and Marvin (Thelma) Franklin of Victorville, CA; three sisters, Marie (Jimmy - deceased) Jackson of Rand, WV, Elizabeth Laughlin (Charles - deceased) of Chicago, IL, and Doris (Gordon) Rowe of Dunbar, WV; one brother-in-law, Curtis Turner; two sisters-in-law, Lillie May (Sterling) Love, Lou Alice (George) Smith; and many wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of family and friends.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions of Pastor Robert Franklin to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with his many friends in expressing our sorrow at his passing, 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 memorial copy for presentation to the Franklin family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 16th day of February, 2011 by:

Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen
Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward
Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Stephen Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward
Honorable Fred Heitert, Alderman 12th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th 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 Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Joe Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 16th day of February, 2011 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen