

RESOLUTION 58

WHEREAS, This honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis has been apprised of the upcoming 99th birthday celebration of Mr. Joel AJoe@ Sanders to be held at St. James AME Church this Sunday, May 27, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Elder Sanders was born May 30, 1908 in Canton, Mississippi and was named at birth Joel Emmanuel Sanders but was called AJoe@ by most of his relatives, friends and people in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders moved from Canton, Mississippi to Gary, Indiana at the age of 17 where he worked in the steel mills and was married for a brief period there, then later moved to St. Louis during the this country-s Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, During WWII Mr. Sanders worked as a freight handler for the Burlington Railroad Company which was consider an important job supporting the war effort and kept him here in the United States during the war; and

WHEREAS, After the war Mr. Sanders became a maintenance worker at various locations which was considered a stable and significant job for African Americans during the racially segregated years of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In St. Louis Mr. Sanders married his present able bodied and energetic wife Mrs. Wanita Sanders in 1959 and has three children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grand children having his first child at the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has been an active member of the 18th Ward supporting many events and participating in his block unit association and other community effort for many years making him both a pillar and model for future generations and coining the nickname the Aswinger@ due to all his activities and his youthfulness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has lived nine decades in this country living through, the roaring twenties, the depression, the advent of electrical home lighting, the Harlem Renaissance, the first space travel, creation of jet planes, the ending of legislated segregation, the great migration of African Americans from the south to northern cities, advances made through the civil rights movement and many other historical events that other generations can only read about.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 99th birthday celebration of one our community elders Mr. AJoe@ Sanders Athe Swinger@ and by adoption of this resolution wishes to join in the festivities and congratulatory acts honoring Mr. Sanders and we direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of May, 2007 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of May, 2007 as attested:

