

RESOLUTION NUMBER 53

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to note the untimely passing of celebrated advocate for peace and justice, Damu Smith, on May 5, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Damu was born and raised in the Carr Square Village public housing project, the fourth of five children born to Sylvester and Vernice Smith and was a distinguished graduate of Vashon High School; and

WHEREAS, Damu's life-long quest for equality and social justice began in earnest while he was a student at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota where he served as President of the Organization of Afro-American Students; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life Damu organized and provided leadership to numerous peace organizations including the National Black Environment Justice Network, Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice and most recently Black Voices for Peace; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years Damu built, organized and championed movements to confront international, national and local injustice and his exceptional commitment to peace and social equality will continue to be an inspiration to those who step forward to continue his mission; and

WHEREAS, Damu will be greatly missed by his daughter Asha; his sister, Sylnice; his brothers, Richard and Leslie; his friend, Adeleke Foster; his family and his countless friends and admirers around the world;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that, on behalf of the St. Louis community, we pause to remember the many contributions of Damu Smith to the cause of peace and justice, 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 Smith family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of June, 2006 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 9th day of June, 2006 as attested by:

Patrick J. Connaghan
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

James F. Shrewsbury
President, Board of Aldermen