

RESOLUTION NUMBER 107

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on Saturday, June 15, 2008 the 140th Anniversary of the dedication of the Benton Monument in Lafayette Park will be celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the monumental bronze statue of Sen. Thomas Hart Benton was created by one of the most prominent American sculptors of the mid-19th century, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer (1830-1908); and

WHEREAS, Hatty was raised by her father, a doctor, in a small town outside Boston, where she was best described as a tomboy and her antics were so outrageous that she was sent away to Mrs. Sedgwick's School, a boarding school. Here she decided to study sculpture. When she was unable to attend anatomy classes in New England, a boarding school friend from St. Louis, the daughter of a local potentate, dry-goods merchant Wayman Crow, arranged for her to come to St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Crow used his influence to get her into Missouri Medical School, a precursor of Washington University she completed her studies in anatomy, the first female to do so. Hosmer remembered her St. Louis friends by sending the Crows the first sculpture she created in Rome, "Daphne" (1854), as a "love gift" and other pieces were commissioned by St. Louisians as a result of the classical beauty of this piece; and

WHEREAS, in her heyday, Hosmer lived in Rome, where she lived and worked with many famous intellectuals of that time including the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning who proclaimed her "a perfectly emancipated female."; and

WHEREAS, in 1858 the Missouri legislature decided to commission a statute to honor the late Senator Thomas Hart Benton and Hatty was selected to sculpt the first public monument in Missouri as well as the first public monument west of the Mississippi.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 140th Anniversary of the dedication of the Benton Monument in Lafayette Park and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 13th day of June, 2008 by:

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Adopted this the 13th day of June, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

