

RESOLUTION NUMBER 149

WHEREAS, we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor prominent St. Louisan and legendary gospel music leader Merdean Fielding-Gales; and

WHEREAS, Merdean is a native St. Louisan, one of three children born to Okley and Bessie Clark is a distinguished graduate of the St. Louis Public School District, Harris Stowe State University and the Worldwide Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Merdean has served as the National Music Leader and Chief of Protocol for the Progressive National Baptist Convention, for the past three decades and for over nineteen years served as the hostess and producer of the longest running St. Louis television talk show "Expressions" which aired on Fox 2; and

WHEREAS, Merdean is a charter member of the Top Ladies of Distinction, the Continental Society, a member of the NAACP and a 2000 inductee into the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2006 Merdean was inducted into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum, an organization that preserves and celebrates the work of the world's legendary and influential individuals of gospel music, artists and entertainers; and

WHEREAS, Merdean is an outstanding public servant, whose dedication and commitment to spread and share gospel music, not only to the St. Louis Community, but to the entire world, distinguishes her as a truly devoted Christian woman, educator, mentor and friend;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we break from our regular agenda to acknowledge, recognize and honor Merdean Fielding-Gales for her commitment and dedication to the St. Louis Community as well as the International Community, as a definitive "Spiritual Light of Hope" and her recent induction into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame 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 commemorative copy for presentation to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 3rd day of November, 2006 by:

Honorable James F. Shrewsbury, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this the 3rd day of November, 2006 as attested:

Patrick J. Connaghan
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

James F. Shrewsbury
President, Board of Aldermen