

RESOLUTION NUMBER 193

Mr. John Wesley Taylor, Jr.

WHEREAS, Mr. John Wesley Taylor, Jr. was born January 6, 1930 in Elliot, Mississippi, to the union of John Wesley Taylor, Sr., and Bettie Mae Brown Taylor. He was the oldest of ten children, six girls and four boys. John had professed his faith in Christ at an early age and joined the Galilee Baptist Church when his family moved to St. Louis, Missouri from Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he was educated in the St. Louis Public School System and proudly graduated from Vashon High School. He attended Hubbard Business College in St. Louis, Missouri, educating himself with a business foundation to follow into the footsteps of the family business - Taylor Sausage Company. He served in the United States Army receiving an Honorable Discharge for his service. His business education and commitment to family led him into the family business.

WHEREAS, Taylor Sausage Company is one of the oldest black-owned businesses in St. Louis - with its beginnings in 1938. John was quickly catapulted into leadership and became president of the company following the untimely death of his father, John Wesley Taylor, Sr. In 1963. He supported his mother Bettie Mae Brown Taylor, the CEO of the company taking the leadership of the company known by its slogan "Hog enough to want your business, man enough to treat you right." The sausage products were sold in major grocery chains and neighborhood stores within St. Louis and Illinois; and

WHEREAS, John married Mary Ann Walker on January 2, 1955 and raised five children to this union. He loved life and family and enjoyed many family reunions, birthday parties, and his legendary Memorial Day picnic which always featured live music comprised of talented family musicians. John enjoyed football and especially following the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club Football "Eagles" and the Cardinal Ritter College Prep Football "Lions" as recently as the Friday before his death. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren, boasting with joy to all he met; and

WHEREAS, John was committed to his community and was vocal to make a difference of supporting the school district Parent Teacher Congress as President, Yeatman Health Board member and serving on the Missouri Mental Health Board and was inducted into the 2007 St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation Walk of Fame Honoree because of his strong character and lifelong commitment of community service and business dedication. He was a proud member of Vashon High School Class of 1949, carrying their legacy until his death. He also served as president of the Lamb's Inc., a civic organization providing funds for multiple children's groups and a life member of Prince Hall Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, golf was a passionate pastime in John's life; very competitive through the years he won more than his fair share of local tournaments. His friends nick-named him Sausage Taylor, known throughout the St. Louis area and traveled in to golf tournaments near and far with his family in tow; and

WHEREAS, John's motto was "I did it my way" and that was not lost on his children. From the early years he was very instrumental in their upbringing whether taking them out on his delivery routes or taking them across 18 holes of golf. Graduation from college was not the exception, but the rule and nothing less than that was allowed. He walked tall and carried a big stick on instilling in his children a strong work ethic and moral character; and

WHEREAS, early Monday morning September 27, 2010 John transitioned peacefully into eternal rest. He was preceded in death by his father John Wesley Taylor, Sr., mother Bettie Mae Brown Taylor, five sisters: Ernestine Taylor, Wilma Staton, Evelyn McKinley, Peggy Ann Taylor, and Lorene Ray; and two brothers, Lead and Eugene Taylor and a son, Ray Anthony Wilkes; and

WHEREAS, cherishing his memory are his loving wife of 55 years, Mary Ann Taylor; daughters Bettie Calvert (Kenneth), Vicki Edwards (Deland), and Stacy Edwards (Jimmie); and sons John Wesley Taylor, III (Rhonda), and Derek Dunlap. His sister, LaVerne Thornton, brother, Walter Taylor (Debra), sisters-in-law Jacqueline Butler and Dorothy Taylor, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, three aunts and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and may 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 Mr. John Wesley Taylor, Jr. 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 Taylor family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 1st day of October, 2010 by:

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Adopted this the 1st day of October, 2010 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen