

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 263**

**Rev. William G. Gillespie**

**WHEREAS**, we have been apprised that Rev. William G. Gillespie retired on November 30, 2009, after 53 years of dedicated service to the Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church and to the St. Louis Community; and

**WHEREAS**, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, he came to St. Louis in August 1956 from a pastorate in Raleigh, North Carolina. He came to reopen and reorganize a deteriorating Presbyterian church that had been abandoned in a racially changing neighborhood. He began his work alone; with no members, no support, and with only a key to the front door. He single handedly prepared the church for his first worship service on September 16, 1956. In addition to performing manual labor, he visited door to door in the neighborhood, inviting persons to join him in fellowship; and

**WHEREAS**, his undoubting efforts caused the church to grow, flourish, and become a vital part of the St. Louis Community. Because of widespread ecumenical endeavors and extensive outreach programs, the church was the recipient of the "I Dare You Award" given by the Danforth Foundation in 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ministry of Rev. Gillespie has no boundaries, for he has been a Pastor to all who were in need. His church has been a haven for travelers, medical testing, physical fitness, and has been open for use by youth groups, fraternal, civic, and community organizations. He has achieved many personal triumphs and received numerous honors; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982, he was awarded the Humanitarian Award by the St. Louis Globe Democrat. Under his tutelage, five young persons entered the Gospel Ministry. He has served as Moderator of the Synod of Missouri and Moderator of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. He was nominated for the highest office of the Presbyterian Church: Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA. He has been a Professor of Theology at Lindenwood College and at Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. For many years, he has served as Chairman of the Board of Mathews-Dickey Boy's and Girl's Club and on the Board of Regents of Harris-Stowe State University. A senior citizens residence, scholarship program and a residence hall at Harris-Stowe State University have all named in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Gillespie always enjoyed his work and performed his duties with highest dedication. He is highly regarded as a speaker and counselor, and he is respected and revered by theologians throughout the nation. He is a man of peace, humility, and honor. He is truly an example of a Christian gentleman. Rev. Gillespie has succeeded and excelled in all his endeavor and the community has benefited greatly because of his Christian example.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Rev. William G. Gillespie for his many accomplishments and we wish him peace and happiness in his retirement 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 to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 22nd day of January, 2010 by:

**Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward**

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 2010 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen