

RESOLUTION NUMBER 343
40th Anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Louis

WHEREAS, on a blustery March day in 1970, Joseph B. McGlynn, Jr., the founder of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Louis, Mayor Alphonso Cervantes, Patrick Walsh, Irish Consul General of Chicago; marchers and floats depicting Irish heritage slogged through green-tinted snow on Olive Street downtown in the first St. Patrick's day parade of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Joe McGlynn, now 75 years young, and St. Louis' Honorary Irish Consul, is still the driving force behind St. Louis' most popular and well-attended parade. Though today, the Notre Dame Club of St. Louis is aided by a committee of nearly 200 claiming Irish heritage and a marshal corps of over 400 volunteers who actually stage the parade; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 the St. Patrick's Day Run in St. Louis was added to parade day and precedes the parade on Saturday morning. The five mile run has since become the largest locally organized run in St. Louis and have over 8,000 participants last year; and

WHEREAS, when the weather is good, more than 350,000 spectators line the parade route to watch the elaborate floats, marching bands, marching units, dance groups, animal units, novelty groups, motorized organizations, and large helium-filled cartoon character balloons; and

WHEREAS, over the past 40 years a who's who of Irish elected officials have made their way to St. Louis for the parade; an honor no other American city our size enjoys. This list of distinguished individuals includes: Prime Minister Jack Lynch, who attended the second parade in 1971; Bertie Ahern, former prime minister and member of parliament who will be this year's Guest of Honor; Erskine Childers, deputy prime minister and member of parliament; Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, minister of the Department of the Taoiseach and member of parliament; Ben Briscoe, lord mayor of Dublin and member of parliament; John Bruton, leader of the Fine Gael Party; John Hume, leader of SDLP, M.P. and M.E.P. in Northern Ireland; Mark Durkan, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland; Martin Keaveney, Mayor of Sligo; and many others; and

WHEREAS, the list of Honorary Parade Marshals includes many prestigious St. Louisans who have worked diligently to continue the proud tradition of the St. Patrick's Day Parade including: Denny Long, Michael Roarty, Most Reverend Edward O'Donnell, Patrick Donelan, Michael Shanahan, Sr., Jack Buck, Most Reverend Justin Regali, Patrick Finneran, Jr., Charles Drury and many others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize those of Irish heritage who have worked diligently for 40 years to put on the St. Patrick's Day Parade and 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 13th day of March, 2009 by:

Honorable Stephen J. Conway Alderman 8th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Honorable April Ford Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward

Honorable Matthew Villa, Alderman 11th Ward

Honorable Fred Heitert, Alderman 12th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Stephen Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Kathleen Hanrahan, Alderwoman 23rd Ward
Honorable William Waterhouse, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Dorothy Kirner, Alderwoman 25th Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 13th day of March, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen