

RESOLUTION NUMBER 167

Eddie Mae Binion-Johnson

WHEREAS, on Monday, October 5, 2009 Eddie Mae Binion-Johnson made the transition from labor to reward. She epitomized how a “good life” should be lived and truly loved life and lived it to the fullest, never complaining and always giving. She was very dedicated to her church and her community as well as to her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Mae, also affectionately known as “Too Sweet,” “MaDear” and “MeMe,” was born to the union of Mattie Jean and Eddie Drew, who both preceded in her death along with her sister Lucille Bledsoe. Eddie Mae gave her life to Christ at an early age. She was a dedicated member of Holy Communion Episcopal Church where she was active in various ministries; and

WHEREAS, she was educated through high school in Tallahassee, Mississippi and later continued her education at Forest Park Community College where she received her Associates Degree; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Mae married Frank Binion Jr. in 1947 and to this union 4 girls were born; Barbara Jean, Georgiatta, Willie Mae, and Earline (who preceded her in death) and a baby boy who died in infancy. Ollie Johnson Sr. came into her life and to this union her 4 youngest children were born; Gary, Ollie, Jacqueline, and Demetrious; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Mae’s strong willed and courageous spirit was evident throughout her life. After living in the Darst-Webbe housing projects, Eddie Mae started the South Side Welfare Rights Organization/Education Association to help end harassment by welfare workers and educate her community on welfare rights and help make changes with welfare laws which she was very successful in doing. Her fight for others didn’t go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, she received numerous awards and accolades for her work including a SHERO award from 100 Black Women, and numerous citizen and volunteer of the year awards. Eddie Mae’s work wasn’t done, she still found time to start P.G.P.O.D.A. (Parents, Grandparents of Drug Abusers), participate in the Danforth Leadership program, be an active member of ROWEL (Reform Organization of Welfare), and serve on the board of Legal Services and the Medicaid Board. Most recently Eddie Mae was active in litigation, working to help those elderly residents who didn’t have official birth certificates to receive the same services needed to continue on in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Mae’s loving memories will reside in the hearts of her children: Barbara Smith (Comell), Georgiatta, Willie Mae, Gary Johnson (Trina), Ollie Johnson (Dianna), Jacquelyn Stephenson (Katon), and Demetrious Johnson (Patricia); 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 5 great great-grandchildren, one brother-in-law, and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, friends and a special care-giver. Eddie Mae was loved dearly and will be truly missed by everyone who knew her.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to remember Eddie Mae Binion-Johnson and thank her for countless contributions to the St. Louis community throughout her life, and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on October 9th, 2009 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward

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

Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Adopted October 9th, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen