

RESOLUTION NUMBER 387

1780 Revolutionary War Battle of Fort San Carlos at St. Louis

WHEREAS, In July, 1779, Spain joined the American Revolutionary War against Great Britain. Great Britain had ordered its generals in Canada to begin expeditions against Spanish settlements on the Mississippi River a few weeks before this. Their mission was to drive out the rebels led by George Rogers Clark. Clark learned of this and warned the Spanish Commandant at Saint Louis, Fernand de Leyba, in March, 1780 to prepare for an attack. DeLeyba began fortifying the village; and

WHEREAS, with money from the villagers and his own resources, and with volunteer labor, he began to construct a tower which we call Fort San Carlos at what is now the intersection of 4th and Walnut Streets. He also had the villagers dig a mile-long trench from each side of the tower to the riverbank. The Spanish brought cannons to place in the tower from an abandoned fort; and

WHEREAS, around 1 PM on May 26, 1780 the large force of Indians, fur traders and seasoned troops under British command attacked the village. These attackers found the village to be protected by the tower and about 200 armed defenders; and

WHEREAS, however, some villagers were surprised working in the fields, and about 21 were killed and 70 captured. The cannon fire alarmed the Indians and they withdrew. The British western campaign failed. The village of Saint Louis was never attacked again. The same day George Rogers Clark and his army defeated the British at Cahokia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 1780 Revolutionary War Battle of Fort San Carlos at St. Louis and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further 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 15th day of April, 2009 by:

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Adopted this the 15th day of April, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen