

BY ALD. HAMILTON

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Bennie Douglas Kern, Sr., who passed from this life on May 14, 2013.*

**WHEREAS,**

**BENNIE DOUGLAS KERN, SR.**

*passed from this life on May 14, 2013, at age 69, and a memorial service was held on May 22, 2013 at St. Mark AME Church, 1616 W. Atkinson Ave.; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Douglas Kern was one of nine children born to Robert and Zettie Kern, and as a child growing up on a farm in Mississippi, he enjoyed watching his father work on cars and eventually developed a strong liking for automobiles; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Douglas Kern attended New Garden Elementary School and Tipton Street High School, both in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and with a very strong work ethic and a desire to build his career, he moved to Milwaukee in 1960 to seek employment; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Upon arriving in Milwaukee, Douglas found employment as a dishwasher for \$1.00/hour, but his passion for cars always remained, and in 1963, at the age of 20, Douglas decided to enroll in the Milwaukee Vocational School to study to be a mechanic; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Soon Douglas began working a series of jobs that provided him with vast, hands-on experience in the automotive industry, and he was employed as a mechanic at Goodyear, Star Wheel Alignment, Midas, and JC Penney's in Brookfield, and along the way, he also developed critical relationships with some of the most influential mechanics in Milwaukee, including Arthur Billups, Russ Saks and Pat Steiner of Classic Muffler Shop (which is now owned by Kern's); and*

**WHEREAS,** *In 1982, Douglas fulfilled a dream by founding Kern's Muffler Shop on Hampton Ave., one of the first minority-owned muffler shops in Milwaukee, and although there were some challenges starting a minority owned business during those times, Douglas persevered and continued to rely on faith and the principle of hard work to grow the business into the successful enterprise it is today; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Douglas Kern leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 48 years, Lillian, four loving children, Willie, Gloria, Annette and Bennie Douglas Jr., 10 grandchildren and a whole host of other friends and family; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Bennie Douglas Kern, Sr., and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this fine man; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Bennie Douglas Kern, Sr.*

**Introduced by Common Council member Ashanti Hamilton and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on June 11, 2013.**