

FROM THE COMMON COUNCIL

Commendation recognizing the special celebration in honor of Dr. James Cameron on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

WHEREAS,

DR. JAMES CAMERON

was honored during a special event in the rotunda of Milwaukee City Hall on February 25, 2014 on the 100th anniversary of his birth; and

WHEREAS, The free community celebration honoring Dr. James Cameron's legacy included performances by Oshi Adelabu, Kwabena Antoine Nixon, Ozara Odè, and the Ina Onilu Drum and Dance Ensemble, and was sponsored by Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, America's Black Holocaust Museum, City Treasurer Spencer Coggs, state Rep. Leon Young and Maures Development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Cameron, the only known survivor of a lynching in America, dedicated his life to the struggle for civil rights and an end to the evils of racism, and he did not allow the horrors inflicted upon him at the age of 16 to shape his view of America or the necessity to abolish racism; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Cameron was born February 25, 1914 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and he lived in Birmingham, Alabama and Kokomo, Indiana and moved to Marion, Indiana at the age of 14, and two years later, he was falsely accused of participating in the murder of a young white man in Marion; and

WHEREAS, In August 1930, a mob of 15,000 beat Dr. James Cameron and beat and lynched two friends, and Dr. Cameron later said he believed a miracle from God spared him from that hanging, then as a result of his personal experience, Dr. James Cameron dedicated his life to promoting civil rights and racial equality, including the founding of three NAACP chapters in Indiana during the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Cameron, the only known survivor of a lynching in America, dedicated his life to the struggle for civil rights and an end to the evils of racism, and he did not allow the horrors inflicted upon him at the age of 16 to shape his view of America or the necessity to abolish racism; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Cameron, who passed away in 2006, came to Milwaukee in the early 1950s where he continued his work in civil rights including open housing marches, and in 1988 founded America's Black Holocaust Museum, located at 2233 N. 4th St., which preserved the history of the racial injustices suffered by people of African heritage while encouraging visitors to learn about the nation's history of racism, prejudice, social change and cross-cultural understanding, then in 2005 the U.S. Senate formally apologized to him for this country's failure to outlaw lynching; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes the life of Dr. James Cameron, who made many positive contributions during his life toward his dream of an America free of the evils of racism, and celebrates his legacy on the 100th anniversary of his birth ; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitably engrossed copy of this commendation be presented to the family of Dr. James Cameron.

Introduced and approved on March 4, 2014 by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council: Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Joe Davis, Sr., Nik Kovac, Robert J. Bauman, Jim Bohl, Willie C. Wade, Robert G. Donovan, Robert W. Puente, Michael J. Murphy, Joe Dudzik, José G. Pérez, Terry L. Witkowski and Tony Zielinski.