



God has said, "Now Father is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 13:5-6

Pallbearers

Michael V. Roberts Sr. Esq.	Steven C. Roberts Sr. Esq.
Michael V. Roberts Jr. Esq.	Steven C. Roberts Jr. Esq.
Mark W. Roberts	Christian F. Roberts Esq.
Jay Johnson Sr.	Ricardo Dixon Esq.
Je' Caryous Johnson Sr.	Donald Douglas

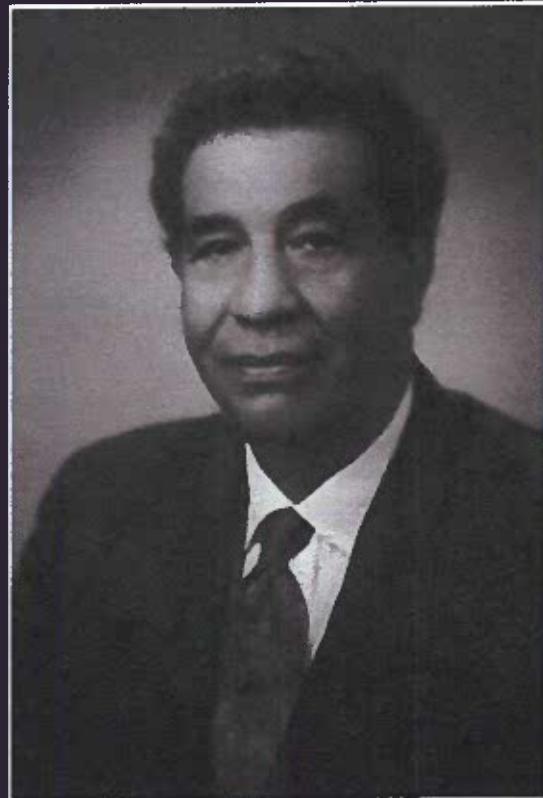
Honorary Pallbearers

Rev. Joseph Cazer	Derrick Talley
Robin Gore	William Talley IV
Angel Solis	Phillip Talley
Ivan Thomas	Leslie Bond Jr. Esq.
Monroe Smith	Georgeo Frazer
Steven Payne	Michael States Sr.
Freddie Everett	Earl Bennett
Jackie Randolph	Charles Gooden
Richard Pennington	Nathaniel Crump
Rudy Bell	Valdimir Talley II
Donald Douglass	

Acknowledgements

The family of Victor Roberts wish to express our sincere gratitude for all the acts of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. We truly appreciate your thoughts, well wishes, prayers and acts of kindness. May God bless each of you. A special word of thanks to our sister Lori A. Roberts for her love and comfort for our father for these many years. To Darci L. Roberts, we appreciate your video tribute and program creation honoring your grandfather.

Thank you to Layne Renaissance Chapel and St. Peters Cemetery.



HOMECOMING SERVICE Honoring The Life Of VICTOR ROBERTS

October 6, 1922 - March 24, 2022





Two Souls As One

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION ORDER OF SERVICE

"Oh give Thanks unto the Lord for He is good for
His mercy endureth Forever"
Psalm 18: 29

Processional

Musical Selection
Ms. Denise Thimes
Family Friend

Invocation

Rev. Dr. William Talley III
Officiator

Reading of Scriptures

Old Testament
Minister Vernon Betts
Sheriff City of St. Louis, MO

New Testament
Rev. Joseph Cazer
Spiritual Son

New Testament
Attorney Ricardo Dixon
Grandson

Musical Selection
Mr. Larry Richardson
Financial Advisor
continued next page

ORDER OF SERVICE CONTINUED

In Charge of Service

Attorney Christian Roberts
Grandson

Official Recognitions

Honorable Steven Roberts Jr. Esq.
State Senator 5th District MO. - Grandson

Honorable Lewis Reed, President
St. Louis Board of Aldermen

Honorable Shameen Clark Hubbard
Alderwoman 26th Ward
Musical Selection
Duke Ellington's Song Book - Vic's Favorites

Family Tributes

Dr. Eva L. Frazer MD
Daughter-In-Law

Attorney Michael Roberts Jr.
Grandson

Mr. Donald Douglass, AIA
Nephew
Musical Selection

More Duke Ellington

Reflections

Hon. Michael McMillan
President, St. Louis Metropolitan Urban League
continued next page

ORDER OF SERVICE CONTINUED

Mr. Bill McCellan

Columnist St. Louis Post Dispatch Newspaper

Col. John Hayden, Chief
St. Louis Metropolitan Police

Mr. Charles (Chuck) Gooden
Lifelong Friend
Musical Selection
Ms. Denise Thimes

Expressions of Comfort
(Two Minutes Please)

Musical Selection
Silent Reading of Life Reflections

Kappa Alpha Psi Salute

Eulogy

Rev. Dr. William Talley III
Brother In Law

Music selection
Ms. Denise Thimes

Benediction

Rev. Renee Fenner
Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension
Presentation of the Flag, United States Honor Guard

TAPS

Recessional
Music: "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone"

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF VICTOR ROBERTS FROM THOSE HE LOVED

Victor Roberts was the epitome of those we call The Greatest Generation. Born October 6, 1922, Victor Roberts went home to see our Lord and Savior in the company of those he loved on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at the age of 99 1/2. He passed in his beautiful home which he built with the love of his life the late Delores Talley Roberts who renovated, redesigned, and entertained family, friends, and neighbors indoors and out in their beautifully landscaped backyard. Victor was doing what he enjoyed the most when at home with family, snacking, and enjoying a great sporting event on television.

Victor is survived by his daughter Lori A. Roberts, sons Michael (Jeanne) Roberts Sr., Steven (Eva) Roberts Sr., and Mark W. Roberts, and grandchildren Michael (Stephanie) Roberts Jr., Jeanne (Jay) Johnson, Fallon Roberts, Meaghan (Je'Caryous) Johnson, Steven Roberts Jr., Christian (Maren Pratt) Roberts, and Darci (Ricardo Dixon) Roberts. Great grandchildren Jay Johnson II, Jeanne Johnson IV, Je'Caryous Johnson II, August Johnson, Houston Johnson, Elek Roberts, Valentina Roberts, Giselia Roberts, and Michael Roberts III.

Victor is also survived by his sister Eddie June Forrest and brother-in-law Rev. William (Judy) Talley III, and scores of cousins, nephews, and



nieces. He was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, best friend and travelling companion, Delores Talley Roberts on December 30, 2020 and his sister Marion Roberts Douglass.

Victor was born on October 6, 1922 in West Helena, Arkansas to Edna Locke Roberts and Dr. Squire Victor Roberts MD. The family moved to St. Louis where Dr. Roberts established his practice and one of the first physicians who had patients in the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital. If you have ever traveled past the intersection of Page,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Drive, and Kingshighway Blvd in midtown St. Louis, Mo., you could not have missed the 200,000 square foot building known as the Victor Roberts Building since the 1980s and which had been the old Sears & Roebuck and Co. department store built in 1928. In 1928 Victor was only six years old and lived with his parents just a short streetcar ride away from the building that would later bear his name, near the historic African American Ville neighborhood.

Victor could trace his roots through his mother's family to McNairy County (Selmer) Tennessee, where his grandparents and great grandparents were farmers and in other business

rooted in Victor's DNA, going back nearly two centuries in this country.



Victor was educated in the St. Louis Public Schools, attending Marshall Elementary (picture above) and Sumner High School. He enrolled at Stowe Junior College in September 1939 the same month WWII began in Europe. A bright student, Victor made the Dean's List that year and also won a mixed doubles tennis tournament.

In 1940, Victor was in the first class to move to the new Stowe Teachers College building located at Kennerly and Pendleton Avenues. In September of 1941 he was one of the first class of men to be admitted to the four-year Stowe Teachers College, and now known as Harris-Stowe University. He would later be honored by the university being inducted into the select community of Distinguished Alumni of Harris-Stowe.



ventures. His father's family was from the area of West Point Mississippi where his grandfather Wright Roberts was known to be a prominent farmer and community leader. So, it appears the entrepreneurial gene was deeply

There, in February of 1942, he was initiated together with four friends, as a charter-member of the Beta Nu Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and selected as a member of the college's Pan-Hellenic Council. He has received numerous awards from his chapter and the national fraternity for his service to his community. His son Michael is also



Victor Roberts with sons Michael and Steve,
all proud Kappa Alpha Psi members

a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi, has received the highest honor the Laurel Wreath, which the fraternity bestows only to its highest acknowledged successful members worldwide who demonstrate extra-meritorious achievements that are at least national, or international, in scope and effect. Victor was so proud that his sons Steven and Mark joined, and his grandsons followed in his footsteps as third generation Kappa men, Michael Jr and Steven Jr., and grandson Jay Johnson.

Along with his studies, Victor continued to pursue his enthusiasm for athletics in college, playing on the first Men's Varsity Basketball Team in 1941 and 1942. Part of his interest in sports was fostered by his father Dr. Roberts, who enjoyed various sporting events and would often take young Victor to the St. Louis Stars Negro League baseball



As a young man Victor enjoyed sitting on the bench with the St. Louis Stars





CLIMBING THE LADDER, CHASING THE DREAM

The History of Homer G. Phillips Hospital

Candace O'Connor

Growing up in The Ville Neighborhood and with a father who was a physician, young Victor Roberts had many memories of Homer G. Phillips Hospital which he shared in this book, with a forward by his daughter-in-law Dr. Eva L. Frazer MD.

"We would go down there after it opened," recalled Roberts, "and walk around it, because some of the doctors there knew my dad, who was also a physician. So I had a chance to look through it. Everything was completely new, and it was really, really very nice. They did a great job with the architecture, and they had these wings—four different wings—with different types of services in each one."



92ND INFANTRY DIVISION

The 92nd Infantry Division, a military unit of approximately fifteen thousand officers and men, was one of only two all-black divisions to fight in the United States Army in World War I and World War II. It received the name "Buffalo Soldier Division" as a tribute to the four Buffalo soldier regiments that fought in the regular U.S. Army in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

After the United States entered World War II, the 92nd Infantry was reactivated on October 15, 1942, and trained at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After that training was completed, the 92nd was deployed to Italy. On July 30, 1944, the first units of the 92nd arrived in Naples, Italy, and by September 22, the entire division was stationed in the Po Valley in North Italy. Assigned to

the U.S. Fifth Army, the 92nd Division also included the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all-Japanese American (Nisei) unit.

The division first saw significant action against German troops and Italian troops in September, and by October, they were engaged in offensive campaigns in the Serchio River Valley and along the coast near the city of Massa. On April 29, 1945, elements of the 92nd Division liberated the Italian cities of La Spezia and Genoa. They participated in other battles in Northern Italy, often in fighting that involved both advances and retreats until May 2, 1945, when all German forces in Italy surrendered. The 92nd Division returned to the United States on November 26, 1945, and was deactivated two days later on November 28, 1945.

With the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, America joined the war and like a majority of men of his generation, Victor Roberts was called to serve his country in January of 1943. He served with the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division in the European Theater of Operations through December of 1945. At that time the United States military was still segregated.

Recognizing his leadership abilities, Victor was promoted to Master Sergeant of his unit. He served with honor and distinction, being awarded three Bronze Battle Stars, an Outstanding Unit Citation, the Combat Infantry Badge, World War II Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. He continued to serve during the Korean War in 1950 and 1951.



Between the wars Victor returned to St. Louis and his studies where in the fall of 1946 he met a fellow student who was to be the love of his life. Delores

was a fellow Sumner High School graduate who was attending Stowe Teachers College, now Harris-Stowe State University, where she received her Bachelor of Education degree. After many dates and family visits in early 1947, the couple became engaged and were married in June of 1947.



Working at the Post Office 1981

Over the years Delores and Victor were blessed with four loving children, the oldest Michael, then Steven, Mark, and Lori. In their early years together, the couple created a catering business since Delores was an excellent chef and Victor the ultimate mixologist. Victor was also an executive with the United States Postal Service for 39 years as a distribution clerk, window clerk, supervisor of mails, station manager, personnel supervisor, and Incentive Awards Officer. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in January of 1981 before joining his sons in the infancy of their family business. The company would become over the next four decades one of the leading minority owned businesses in the United States.



September 1995

Victor was the Senior Vice President and Comptroller of this rapidly growing business empire known as the Roberts Companies. Together they would oversee the creation of shopping centers, television and radio stations, office buildings, a cellular telephone company, broadcast tower company, hotels, restaurants, housing-single family, townhouse and apartment developments, an engineering consulting company, the premiere national MBE/WBE consulting firm, a premium and advertising business, a pawn shop, the renovation and operation of the old American Theatre into the Roberts Orpheum Theatre in downtown St. Louis, a housing development in the Bahamas, and many more entrepreneurial pursuits. His sons' successes were because of his steady guiding hand and patience with his sons' creativity in business. Victor read and clipped all articles

about his boys, which the family cherishes today.

Victor was also very proud to have his sons Michael and Steven elected to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen serving together, and his grandson Steven Jr.'s election as State Representative, then to the Missouri State Senate in November 2020, and was excited when told Steven was soon to announce a campaign for Congress.



May 15, 1988 Baptismal brunch MAC for grandson Steve Craig Roberts.

Over nearly a century, Victor witnessed many amazing changes in America. He experienced and helped to overcome segregation and witnessed the advent of so many of the technological marvels we take for granted today. As an avid reader of at least three newspapers a day, Victor was totally consumed with current events on television, radio, or news outlets on the internet. He would converse with family, friends, and co-workers on all subjects like an expert especially when it came to sports or jazz.

Victor loved music, especially Jazz. Several of his friends from Sumner High School, the oldest black high school west of the Mississippi River, where he graduated in 1939 became internationally renowned music artists. When many came home, they would visit Victor in his office at the Victor Roberts Building. To name a few they were Clarke Terry, Wendel Marshall, Leroy Harris, and Jimmy Blanchard. In the 1930s, '40s, '50s St. Louis was the hub of Jazz and Blues artists from everywhere. Victor through his friends enjoyed the acquaintances of great artists like his favorites Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, Miles Davis and many more.



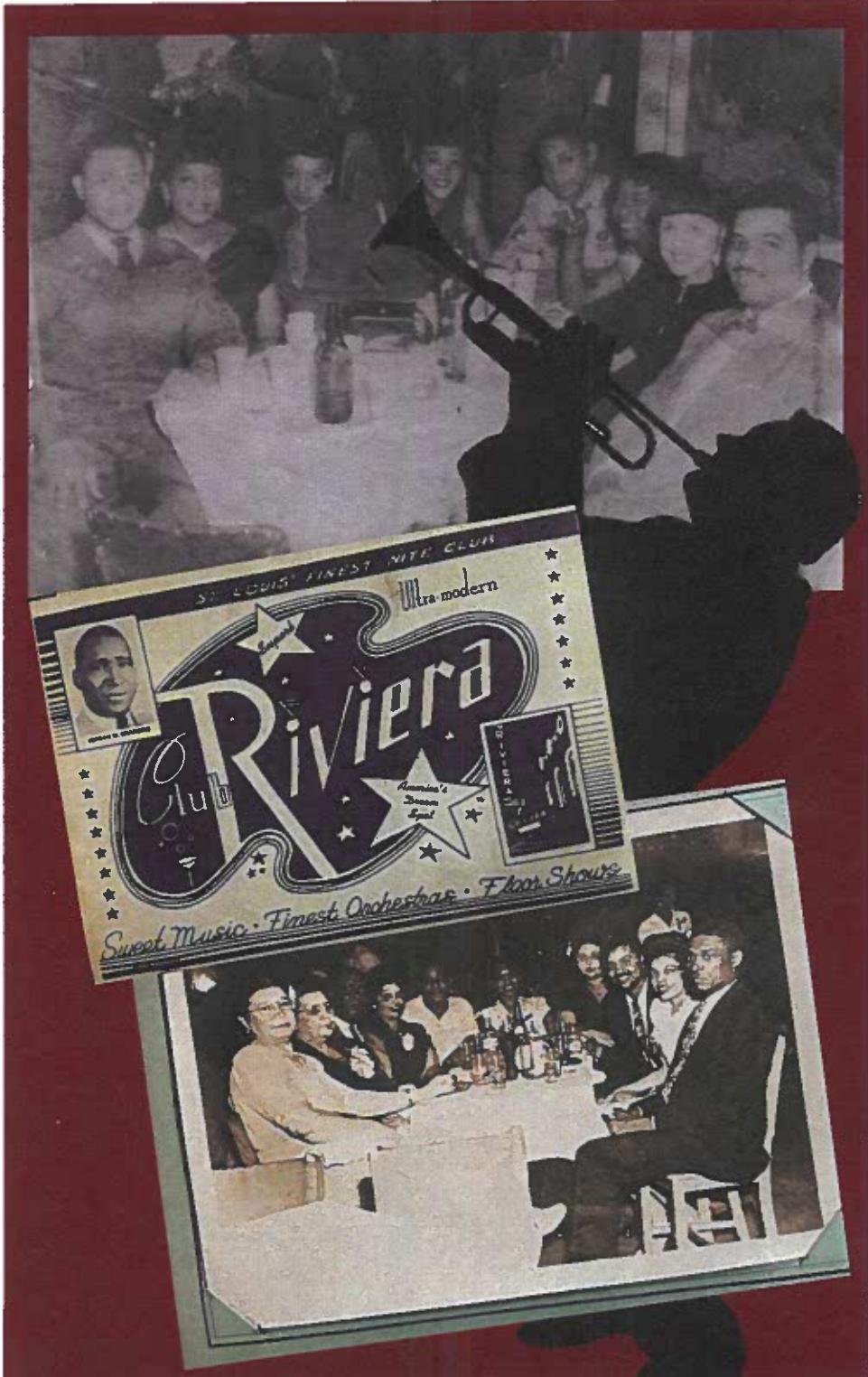
With everyone he met who also had an interest in Jazz, Victor could recall hundreds of Jazz tunes including who made them famous and sometime even remember the composers. Victor could always tell you which radio station had different jazz shows each night of the week.

With his friend the late Attorney Don Wolff, who Harris Stowe State University created the Donald Wolff

Jazz Collection Institute, they would often talk endlessly about the different Jazz artists who Don would play on his weekly Saturday

night Jazz program on KMOX Radio. Victor also donated many valuable jazz albums and other memorabilia to the Donald Wolff Jazz Library in the newly dedicated Emerson Building on the Harris-Stowe campus.

With his wife Delores, Victor and the family have been parishioners of All Saints Episcopal Church for over 60 years, the first Black Episcopal Church West of the Mississippi. Victor served on the Vestry, Men's Club, and Usher Boards as well as participating in many of the church's fundraising activities.



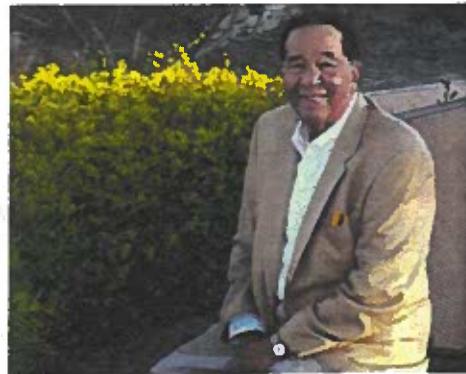


His community service included serving on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Philanthropic Organization and the St. Louis Heritage & Design Commission, and work with the YMCA and United Way of St. Louis.

What a great mark Victor Roberts has left on the St. Louis community through his works and accomplishments, and through the family he cherished. After nearly a century on this earth, he has now gone to be with his beloved wife and the heavenly reward of life everlasting.

Visitation will be April 14th from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM and April 15th from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at the Layne Renaissance Chapel, 7302 West Florissant Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. The Celebration of Life begins at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to the Delores and Victor Roberts Endowment Memorial Fund at the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension 4520 Lucas and Hunt Road, St. Louis, MO 63121.



Love you madly, right or wrong
Sounds like a lyric of a song
But since it's so
I thought you oughta know
I love you, love you madly

Duke Ellington Lyrics

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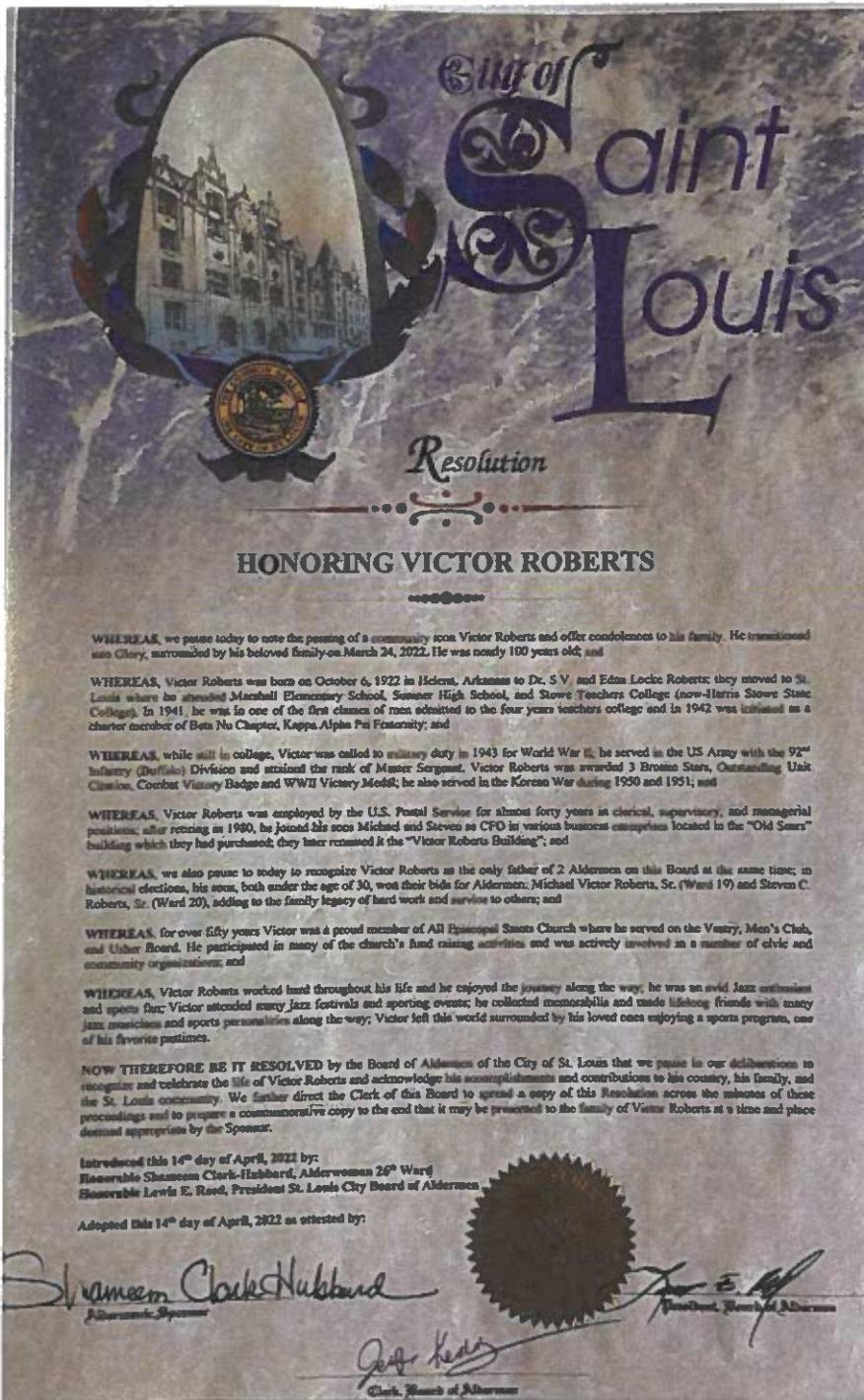
The Roberts Family:
Three Generations
of Achievement

*Our Inspiration
& Mentor*





Sumner High School Class of 1939
50th Reunion, August 19, 1989





Faith & Family First



Whitfield Commencement 2006

