

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Proclamation

We the duly elected members of the Independence, Missouri City Council by the authority vested in us by the City Charter do hereby make the following proclamation:

Whereas: In recognition of the many accomplishments and services rendered to this community by our former 'Chief of Police', Col. George D. Owen, during his five years in office we acknowledge the following:

Whereas: Col. George D. Owen by his personal conduct, demeanor and leadership brought honorable recognition to the Indep. Mo. Police Dept. as Chief of Police.

Whereas: We acknowledge the following accomplishments:

1. Complete reorganization of the organizational structure of the police department.
2. Initiated and implemented new policies and procedures.
3. Strict enforcement of the National Police Code of Ethics.
4. Fair and impartial promotional procedures.
5. Acquired new and modern police field equipment.
6. Professional training for all officers, salary increases, insurance coverage for officers permanently injured or killed in the line of duty, pensions, accumulation of sick pay and other fringe benefits.
7. Developed an excellent rapport between the citizens and their police department.
8. Appointed Protestant and Catholic chaplains for the Police Department.
9. Was instrumental in obtaining 88 acres of county land for a criminal justice academy and scientific laboratory in Independence.

Whereas: Col. Owen by his untiring efforts to improve the image and performance of the Police Department did convince the citizens of Independence to vote for two million dollars in obligation bonds to erect our present police facility.

Whereas: Because of the line of communication Col. Owen developed in his thirty-five years as a police officer he was able to prevent the burning, looting and riots in our city in 1968 during the riots in Kansas City, Missouri.

Whereas: Col. Owen as Chief of Police did receive many honors and awards for his outstanding leadership and personal involvement in civic affairs and,

Whereas: Col. Owen received recognition for the City of Independence from the President of the United States and U.S. Attorney General for being one of the three cities in the U.S. with populations of 100,000 to 250,000 that had the lowest crime rate in the nation for five consecutive years. Among 40,000 police administrators, Col. Owen received a personal invitation from the U.S. Attorney General to attend a special seminar on crime prevention along with 39 other law enforcement administrators from throughout the U.S. and,

Whereas: Col. Owen was awarded the Independence, Mo. Chamber of Commerce Presidential Award for outstanding service to the community and was selected 'Man of the Year' by the Eastern Jackson County Realtors Assn. He was awarded the meritorious service award by the Governor of the State of Mo. for outstanding performance in the field of law enforcement. He received an award of recognition and appreciation from the Indep. Fraternal Order of Police and other awards too numerous to mention.

Therefore, in witness thereof, we, the undersigned duly elected officials of the City of Independence do hereby confer upon

GEORGE D. OWEN

the permanent rank of Colonel and the honorary title of 'Chief of Police Emeritus of the City of Independence, Missouri' for the rest of his natural life. Signed June 16th, 1980.

W. S. Snyder

Charles L. Mendenhall

W. D. Bower

Barbara J. Smith

John J. Smith

John J. Smith

John J. Smith