



NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of Mayor Thomas P. Schneider

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 3, 2016

**A PLAQUE DEDICATION FOR THE LATE JAMES C. "JAY" RUSSELL IS FOR
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH AT CORNER OF ST. FERDINAND & RUE ST. FRANCOIS
BEFORE THE START OF THE FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT FESTIVITIES**

Mayor Thomas P. Schneider is pleased to announce that the City along with Old Town Partners will be hosting a dedication to unveil a plaque in honor of the late James C. "Jay" Russell. This will be the 25th Walk through History plaque in honor of someone who has made a valuable contribution to the City of Florissant. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 25th at 5:45 p.m. on the corner of St. Ferdinand and rue St. Francois. The plaque dedication will take place before the start of the first Wednesday Night Out festivities which is being hosted by the VFW Post 4105 located at 410 rue St. Francois.

James C. "Jay" Russell served Florissant for 28 years as a Democratic Representative in the Missouri legislature and founded the perennially popular BJ's Bar and Restaurant.

Mr. Russell, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, was a life member of the American Legion, a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Bishop Wurm Assembly and a life member of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Council 2951.

Born November 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Mr. Russell was raised in his parents' business, Russell's Grocery Store. In 1955 he married Delphine Mann, the same year that they opened BJ's Bar and Restaurant in Old Town Florissant, the oldest continuously operated restaurant in Florissant and one of the oldest in St. Louis County.

Elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1962, Mr. Russell served as a state legislator until 1990. His tenure included four years as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, during which time he helped to create the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. He also served as Lewis & Clark first Democratic committeeman from 1970 to 2008.

"Jay Russell has been a mentor to me since I was elected to the Florissant City Council in 1979," said Thomas P. Schneider, Mayor of Florissant. "During his time with the Missouri legislature Jay advocated for many projects for Florissant, including storm water improvement grants to share the cost between Florissant and the Metropolitan Sewer District.