

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-228**

5 A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE 100TH
6 BIRTHDAY OF MRS. JANIE R. ROBINSON, RECOGNIZING
7 A CENTURY OF FAITH, FAMILY, EDUCATION, AND
8 SERVICE TO THE JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY, AND
9 EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR A
10 LIFE THAT HAS INSPIRED GENERATIONS AND STANDS AS
11 A LIVING TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF
12 DETERMINATION, THE DIGNITY OF FAMILY, AND THE
13 TRANSFORMATIVE PROMISE OF EDUCATION; PROVIDING
14 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Janie R. Robinson was born on March 29, 1926, in
17 Round O, South Carolina, to Easley and Beulah Robinson, and was later
18 raised in Jacksonville, Florida by Mattie and James Edward Hutchins,
19 both families instilling in her the values of faith, discipline, and
20 reverence for education; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Robinson shared an extraordinary love story with
22 her husband and lifelong partner Mr. Roxwell Robinson, Sr., whose
23 companionship and devotion spanned eighty-four years, including
24 eighty years of marriage, together raising and educating four children
25 who attended Bethune Cookman University, Florida A&M University,
26 Rollins College, and Hampton University; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in her early professional journey, Mrs. Robinson broke
28 barriers as one of the first African American consultants for the
29 Carnation Company, traveling across communities to teach new mothers
30 the preparation of infant formula and serving as a trusted educator
31 and resource during an era when such opportunities for African

1 American women were rare; and

2 **WHEREAS**, determined that opportunity would never be limited by
3 circumstance, Mrs. Robinson enrolled as an adult learner at Edward
4 Waters College, now Edward Waters University, while raising four
5 children including one only eighteen months old, ultimately earning
6 her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and later a Master's
7 Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Florida A&M University; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Robinson devoted her professional life to the
9 students of Duval County Public Schools, serving first as an English
10 teacher and later as a guidance counselor and founding faculty member
11 of Sandalwood Junior-Senior High School, where she frequently
12 transported students in her own car to nearby colleges so they could
13 witness firsthand the possibilities of higher education; and

14 **WHEREAS**, her pursuit of education ignited a powerful
15 generational legacy in which each of her children earned at least a
16 bachelor's degree, one attained a Ph.D., and all nine grandchildren
17 earned bachelor's degrees with several achieving advanced graduate
18 and professional degrees; and

19 **WHEREAS**, her life has remained deeply rooted in faith through
20 lifelong service in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, currently
21 worshipping at St. Paul AME Church, while also honoring the legacy
22 of her bonus father J. E. Hutchins, one of Jacksonville's pioneering
23 African American architects who designed the historic H. Y. Tookes
24 Building at Edward Waters University; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Robinson has continued her lifelong commitment to
26 education and community service through her contributions to Edward
27 Waters University, her support of its Alumni Association, and through
28 the Beverly Robinson Campbell Foundation, Inc., established in memory
29 of her daughter and providing scholarships for deserving students
30 since 1994; and

31 **WHEREAS**, even in retirement, Mrs. Robinson remains an active

1 community leader as a Life Member of Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha
2 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Life Member of the Women's
3 Missionary Society of the AME Church, Life Member of the James Weldon
4 Johnson Branch of the NAACP, and member of the Duval County Retired
5 Teachers Association; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Robinson continues to inspire generations with her
7 guiding philosophy: "Serve God, pursue education, manage finances
8 wisely so that you may live a comfortable and purposeful life," often
9 followed by her powerful testimony: "Don't tell me it can't be done.
10 I'm a living witness that it can"; now therefore

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby proudly celebrates and
13 honors Mrs. Janie R. Robinson upon the occasion of her 100th Birthday,
14 recognizing a century of faith, scholarship, family leadership, and
15 service that has enriched the City of Jacksonville and inspired
16 countless lives. The City Council expresses its deepest admiration
17 and gratitude to Mrs. Robinson and her family, affirming that her
18 remarkable life reminds us that a single life lived with purpose can
19 shape generations and illuminate the path forward for an entire
20 community.

21 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
22 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
23 without the Mayor's signature.

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25 Form Approved:

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27 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

28 Office of General Counsel

29 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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