

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Salem, Morgan, Bowman, and Becton:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2021-88-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND
7 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MASTER CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S
8 MATE SHERMAN BYRD FOR BEING THE U.S. NAVY'S
9 FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE
10 DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
11 DATE

12
13 **WHEREAS**, Sherman Byrd was born in Carrollton, Mississippi on
14 September 7, 1930 to his parents Loyd and Annie Lloyd Byrd. The
15 youngest of five children, Sherman finished his schooling at Stone
16 Street High School in Greenwood, Mississippi and joined the Navy in
17 1947 at the age of seventeen; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Byrd graduated from the Deep Sea Diving School at
19 the Washington Navy Yard in April 1955 and was assigned to the USS
20 Petrel as a First Class Diver. While serving, Mr. Byrd continued
21 perfecting his trade and graduated from the elite Naval School
22 Underwater Swimmers Program in Key West, Florida in July 1957. He
23 continued to excel in his naval career and graduated from the Naval
24 School Explosive Ordnance Disposal Program in Indian Head, Maryland
25 in June 1958. He was the first African American to complete the
26 Explosive Ordnance Disposal training; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Byrd worked his way up the ranks of the Navy and
28 reached the rank of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate in August, 1969.
29 Mr. Byrd routinely worked with the United States Secret Service
30 helping to protect four United States Presidents, including Dwight
31 D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard

1 Nixon. On September 25, 2009, the Navy dedicated the Explosive
2 Ordnance Disposal Training Evaluation Unit Two facility at Fort
3 Story, Virginia, in his honor. Mr. Byrd died on April 9, 1971
4 leaving behind his eight children and his legacy of service; now
5 therefore

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

7 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
8 and accomplishments of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Sherman Byrd
9 for being the first African American Explosive Ordnance Disposal
10 Technician and for his dedicated service to our country with the
11 United States Navy.

12 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
13 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
14 without the Mayor's signature.

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16 Form Approved:

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18 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Anthony J. Baltiero, City Council Research

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