

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

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5 **RESOLUTION 2020-464**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE  
7 LIFE OF MILDRED ALENE MURRELL; PROVIDING AN  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Mildred "Alene" McNeil Murrell, a native of  
11 Jacksonville, was born on July 27, 1917 to the late J.W. McNeil and  
12 Mary Coleman. She was raised in the historical Spring Park area  
13 located south of the St. Johns River. Mildred McNeil was an  
14 academic scholar excelling in English composition and art. Upon  
15 graduation from the local school, she later attended Florida  
16 Agricultural Mechanical University (FAMU), majoring in home  
17 economics. Mildred affectionately referred to as Alene, was married  
18 to her life partner the late Quincy Murrell for 49 years before his  
19 passing. Together the couple raised seven children; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Murrell worked as a caterer and home decorator  
21 for many years until she began teaching home economics in the Adult  
22 Studies Department at Florida Community College of Jacksonville  
23 (FCCJ). In 1989, she retired after nineteen years of successful  
24 teaching. Alene Murrell never lost her passion for English  
25 composition, so with a little encouragement of friends and family,  
26 she resumed writing poetry and short stories, both real and  
27 fiction. While writing, Mrs. Murrell made time to work in the  
28 community. She served and volunteered in a wide variety of civic,  
29 religious, and social activities; and chaired many offices within  
30 those organizations. Alene Murrell, the church mother, was an  
31 active and life-long member of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist

1 Church. She was involved with Choir I-II, Baptist Young Peoples  
2 Union (BYPU), Baptist Training Union (BTU), and served as a Sunday  
3 school teacher, Youth Director, and Vacation Bible School Director;  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mildred (Alene) McNeil Murrell authored two  
6 exciting and critically acclaimed books: *Zora Neale Hurston In and*  
7 *Around Jacksonville, FL in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s*; and  
8 *Depression Recipes: Zora Neale Hurston's Favorite Dishes*. Alene  
9 Murrell's faith, service to others, and dedication to her family  
10 and church were her greatest joys in life; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
13 commemorates the life and mourns the passing of Mrs. Mildred  
14 "Alene" McNeil Murrell and extends to her family and many friends  
15 its most profound condolences. She was loved, appreciated, and well  
16 respected, and all who knew her will keenly feel her absence.

17 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
18 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
19 without the Mayor's signature.

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21 Form Approved:

22  
23 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman

24 Office of General Counsel

25 Legislation Prepared By: Yvonne P. Mitchell, City Council Research

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