

1 Introduced by Council Members Ferraro, Wilson, Boylan, Dennis,  
2 White, Hazouri, Pittman, Salem, Becton, Freeman, Newby, Carlucci,  
3 DeFoor, Diamond, Morgan, Gaffney, Bowman, Cumber and amended by the  
4 Rules Committee:  
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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-225-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE  
9 LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILLIAM "W.W."  
10 GAY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, William Wiley "W.W." Gay, a native of West Palm  
13 Beach, moved to Jacksonville in his youth, graduated from Robert E.  
14 Lee High School, served in the Merchant Marines during World War  
15 II, and earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from the  
16 University of Florida; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gay began his long career in mechanical  
18 contracting as a part-time employee of Henley and Beckwith while in  
19 college and in 1962 founded W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, one of  
20 the leading mechanical contracting firms in the Jacksonville area  
21 and in Florida and a cornerstone of the Jacksonville business  
22 community; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Bill Gay was a tremendous philanthropist and civic  
24 leader, serving in, generously contributing to and leading  
25 organizations beyond counting. Just a very small sampling of the  
26 organizations in which he held a leadership role include St. Johns  
27 Presbyterian Church, the Gator Bowl Association (board member and  
28 President), Jacksonville University (board member and Chairman),  
29 Jacksonville Mechanical Contractors Association (President), WJCT,  
30 Inc. (board member and Chairman), North Florida Council Boy Scouts

1 of America (Silver Beaver Award and Distinguished Citizen Award  
2 winner), Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100  
3 (Chairman), City Rescue Mission (board member), Duval County  
4 chapter of the United Negro College Fund (Chairman), and dozens of  
5 others; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gay was a man of deep faith who believed in  
7 putting that faith into action, which he did to tremendous effect  
8 by contributing to and leading numerous organizations that served  
9 the needs of mankind, including, among many others, the City Rescue  
10 Mission (board member), Mercy Ships, Billy Graham Crusade  
11 (executive committee member), Ronald McDonald House (Chairman),  
12 Prisoners of Christ (board member), and Presbyterian Retirement  
13 Communities (Chairman); and

14 **WHEREAS**, Bill Gay's contributions to his community, state and  
15 nation were recognized by the many organizations he served, and  
16 during his lifetime he was honored with awards and recognitions  
17 beyond counting; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Gay's generous spirit, wise counsel, and love for  
19 his community will be sorely missed with his recent passing; now  
20 therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
23 commemorates the life and countless civic and business  
24 contributions of William "W.W." Gay, and extends to his family,  
25 friends and countless admirers the City's heartfelt condolences.  
26 Bill Gay was a legendary leader in every aspect of this city's  
27 life, and his influence and example will benefit the community for  
28 decades to come.

29 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
31 without the Mayor's signature.

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Form Approved:

/s/ Paige H. Johnston

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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