

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-88**

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

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Byrd worked his way up the ranks of the Navy and  
26 reached the rank of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate in August, 1969.  
27 Mr. Byrd routinely worked with the United States Secret Service  
28 helping to protect four United States Presidents, including Dwight  
29 D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon.  
30 On September 25, 2009, the Navy dedicated the Explosive Ordnance  
31 Disposal Training Evaluation Unit Two facility at Fort Story,

1 Virginia, in his honor. Mr. Byrd died on April 9, 1971 leaving behind  
2 his eight children and his legacy of service; now therefore

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

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

9 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
10 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
11 without the Mayor's signature.

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13 Form Approved:

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15 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

16 Office of General Counsel

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

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