

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Pittman, Morgan, Priestly Jackson, DeFoor, Bowman, Cumber,
3 Dennis, Diamond, Newby, Becton, Freeman, White, Ferraro, Carlucci,
4 Salem, Carrico & Boylan:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2021-674-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
9 PASSING OF ERNEST GIBSON; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
10 DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was born April 13, 1929 in Jacksonville,
13 Florida, and was reared by his faithful aunt and uncle, Eula and John
14 "Jay" Graham; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was a deeply spiritual man who attended
16 St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church for his entire life. He
17 sang in the choir, in the men's chorus and was a member of the St.
18 Paul AME Steward Board designated Steward Emeritus by his pastor
19 Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was a veteran, an athlete and a scholar.
21 He attended Stanton High School until his education was interrupted
22 in 1946 when he joined the Army. After his service to the country in
23 Japan, Ernest returned to Jacksonville to finish his high school
24 education, and then moved on to Alabama to attend the Tuskegee
25 Institute. At Tuskegee he earned his Bachelor's degree in Industrial
26 Education, ran track, and in 2007 was inducted into the Tuskegee
27 University Athletic Hall of Fame in Track and Field;

28 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson met his future wife, Lois Gleneda Davis,
29 while at Tuskegee where she received her Bachelor's in Nursing degree.
30 They married in June 1955, the first wedding held in the new St. Paul
31 AME Church location on Myrtle Avenue, and they shared more than 60

1 beautiful, wedded years together; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was a passionate educator, and earned
3 teaching certificates in multiple subject areas from Florida A & M
4 University and also a Master's in Education Degree from The Florida
5 State University. Ernest began his teaching career at the Douglas
6 Anderson School, and taught wood shop as part of a "family" of
7 teachers, staff and students in an era when schools were still
8 segregated. He was also a coach for the "Fiery Dragons" football
9 team. After desegregation, Mr. Gibson was assigned to various schools
10 throughout the city, and then assumed school administrative
11 positions, and later in his career was a truancy officer; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was dedicated to community service, and
13 for many years travelled back to Tuskegee as part of the alumni
14 "adopt-a-dorm" summer program, taking his tools to make repairs to
15 on-campus housing. He was a Life Member of his beloved KAPPA ALPHA
16 PSI Fraternity, Inc., a member of the Tuskegee Alumni Association, a
17 long serving member on the Johnson Branch YMCA Board of Directors,
18 and a life counselor to many young men; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, the Douglas Anderson alumni association
20 honored Ernest with a scholarship created in his name, the "Ernest
21 Gibson Scholarship for Education" Fund, and the African American
22 Coaches, Game Officials, and Athletic Association recognized him for
23 his coaching acumen and dedication to the goals of the organization;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson dedicated his life to his family,
26 students, church, and community. He was a loving husband to his wife
27 Dr. Lois D. Gibson, who preceded him in death in 2015, and father of
28 two, grandpa of six, great grandpa of eight. Ernest Gibson
29 transitioned his earthly life on August 14, 2021 at the age of 92,
30 leaving behind his daughter, State Senator Audrey Gibson, and son,
31 Ernest Gerard Gibson and his wife, Barbara; grandchildren Kwanzaa

1 Spells (Robert), Amar Madyun (Neesie), Jamaal Madyun (Katie), Ryan
2 (Kathy), Rachael, and Ridge Gibson; great grandchildren, Haniyah,
3 Taylor, and Jalin Spells; Journee and Jordan Madyun; Siena, Alice,
4 and Violet Madyun; sister Wilhelmina Rogers; brother Carl Graham;
5 doting "niece," Andrea Kemp; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins
6 and friends; dear friends, Barbara and John Darby, and caring co-
7 workers Bobby Williams and Donna Cobb, and many other extended family
8 and friends who will cherish his memory; now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
11 and achievements of Ernest Gibson and extends sincere condolences to
12 his family and loved ones upon his passing. Jacksonville City Council
13 hopes that the memories of his life and his love for his family,
14 students, church and community will provide comfort to those grieving
15 his loss.

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

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20 Form Approved:

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22 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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