

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-674**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
6 PASSING OF ERNEST GIBSON; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
7 DATE.
8

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

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

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

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

30 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson was a passionate educator, and earned
31 teaching certificates in multiple subject areas from Florida A & M

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, Ernest Gibson dedicated his life to his family,
23 students, church, and community. He was a loving husband to his wife
24 Dr. Lois D. Gibson, who preceded him in death in 2015, and father of
25 two, grandpa of six, great grandpa of eight. Ernest Gibson
26 transitioned his earthly life on August 14, 2021 at the age of 92,
27 leaving behind his daughter, State Senator Audrey Gibson, and son,
28 Ernest Gerard Gibson and his wife, Barbara; grandchildren Kwanzaa
29 Spells (Robert), Amar Madyun (Neesie), Jamaal Madyun (Katie), Ryan
30 (Kathy), Rachael, and Ridge Gibson; great grandchildren, Haniyah,
31 Taylor, and Jalin Spells; Journee and Jordan Madyun; Siena, Alice,

1 and Violet Madyun; sister Wilhelmina Rogers; brother Carl Graham;
2 doting "niece," Andrea Kemp; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins
3 and friends; dear friends, Barbara and John Darby, and caring co-
4 workers Bobby Williams and Donna Cobb, and many other extended family
5 and friends who will cherish his memory; now 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 achievements of Ernest Gibson and extends sincere condolences to
9 his family and loved ones upon his passing. Jacksonville City Council
10 hopes that the memories of his life and his love for his family,
11 students, church and community will provide comfort to those grieving
12 his loss.

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

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17 Form Approved:

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19 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

20 Office of General Counsel

21 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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