

1 Introduced by Council Member Priestly Jackson and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Becton, Freeman, Newby, Pittman and Carrico:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-220-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
7 PASSING OF MRS. GWENDOLYN DELORES THOMPSON
8 FLANDERS; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
9 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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11 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Delores Thompson Flanders was born in
12 Enterprise, Florida on October 21, 1938, to the late Charles and Otis
13 Mae Thompson, the oldest of their eight children; and

14 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders was a graduate of New Stanton
15 High School, Class of 1957, and she was a proud "Mighty Blue Devil"
16 throughout her life. She went on to earn a degree from Edward Waters
17 College, and a library degree from Atlanta University; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders was a loving wife and doting
19 mother. She wed the late Joseph R. Flanders on January 24, 1964, and
20 together they raised their daughter Letitia, son Joseph Flanders,
21 Jr., and stepdaughter Michelle; and

22 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders was a dedicated educator with
23 Duval Public Schools for 31 years, and served as a Library/Media
24 Specialist at Oakland Elementary, R. L. Brown Elementary, Sandalwood
25 High School, San Jose Elementary, and her revered Ribault Senior High
26 School; and

27 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders was a devoted, spiritual
28 servant who worshipped initially at West Union Baptist Church, and
29 then at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church after she was married. She served
30 diligently for 58 years by singing in the choir, working with vacation
31 bible school, as member of the Presbyterian Women Organization and

1 Mid-week Bible Study, and as a church Elder and a Deacon; and

2 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders made time to see the world,
3 and she loved to travel with her family and friends, and she was a
4 member of the traveling group "Friends Who Love To Travel"; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders was a Silver Star member of
6 Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, where she was
7 chairperson of the scholarship committee and active in community
8 service projects; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders transitioned home on March
10 18, 2023, leaving behind a loving daughter, Letitia; son, Joseph, Jr.
11 (Theresa); grand-son, Loyal; stepdaughter, Michelle; step-
12 granddaughter, Lindsey; brothers, Charles, Jr., and Otis Maurice
13 Thompson; sisters, Sonya Thompkins (Clyde), and Victoria Hill (Roy);
14 Brenda Williams; many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and caring
15 friends; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
18 of Mrs. Gwendolyn Delores Thompson Flanders, with appreciation for
19 her devotion to her family, her unwavering commitment to her church
20 and fellow congregants, her zest for travel, and for her decades of
21 service in our public schools. The Jacksonville City Council extends
22 heartfelt condolences to all who knew and loved her, with the hope
23 that the memories of her will provide comfort and peace.

24 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**
25 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901.** Emergency passage upon introduction
26 of this Resolution is requested so that this Resolution can be
27 presented to the Flanders family at Mrs. Gwendolyn Flanders' memorial
28 service.

29 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
31 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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