

1 Introduced by Council Members Ferraro, Wilson, Boylan, Dennis, White,
2 Hazouri, Pittman, Salem, Becton, Freeman, Newby and Co-Sponsored by
3 Council Members, Carlucci, DeFoor, Diamond, Morgan, R. Gaffney, Bowman
4 and Cumber :

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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-225**

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
31 of America (Silver Beaver Award and Distinguished Citizen Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 Form Approved:

1 /s/ Margaret M. Sidman
2 Office of General Counsel
3 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research
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