

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: In June 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order establishing the Fair Employment Commission to break down racial discrimination barriers that affected African-Americans aspiring to join the defense industry during World War II; and

WHEREAS: This landmark order paved the way for the Montford Point Marines, the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942; and

WHEREAS: Among the Marines sent to Montford Point Camp is Jacksonville native Alpha P. Gainous, who enlisted in June 1943 and finished his military career as a staff sergeant in June 1946; and

WHEREAS: Born in Jacksonville on November 15, 1924, Mr. Gainous remains an engaged citizen of his hometown. In his 94 years of life, he has achieved many things, including earning a food science degree from Tuskegee University, and serving as a commercial dietitian, boiler maker in the shipyards, and foreman in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Gainous is also a longtime VFW member, joining Post 4761 in 1944. In August, he will reach 75 years of membership, more years than any other member throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: In 2011, Mr. Gainous joined many of his fellow Montford Point Marines in Washington, D.C., to be recognized for their historic contributions to our nation. The following year, he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for his service as one of our country's first black Marines; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Gainous has a unique and commendable role in Jacksonville and United States history, and is beloved by his family, friends, faith community at St. Paul AME Church, and the City of Jacksonville.

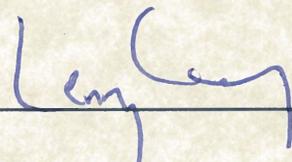
NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby – in conjunction with our city's observance of African-American History Month – recognize and honor

ALPHA P. GAINOUS

as an extraordinary Jacksonville native and encourage all citizens to celebrate his many accomplishments and service to our nation.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 22nd day of February
in the year Two Thousand 19


MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA