

RESOLUTION NO. 13-878

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that the 100th Birthday Celebration of Mrs. Alice Evelyn Brantley hosted by her son Paul and daughter Charlotte in Stockton, California on November 22 - 24, 2013

WHEREAS, Alice was born in the Panama Canal Zone where her Jamaican father practiced medicine to West Indian immigrants working on the Panama Canal. She was born on November 22, 1913, the year the Canal opened. Alice returned to the states with her family and studied to be a teacher at Oakwood Junior College. She was a resident of Huntsville for 44 years (1955 to 58; and 1971 to 2012); and,

WHEREAS, Alice Evelyn Blake Brantley hails from a historic Virginia family. Her great-grandfather, Charles Diuguid was a free black man who operated the blacksmith shop for the town of Appomattox, Virginia. His smithy shop was adjacent to the famous McLean House where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses Grant in 1865. Her grandfather, Thomas Isbell, witnessed the event from a nearby tree; and,

WHEREAS, her mother, Lottie Isbell Blake, also lived to be 100. In 1902 she received her MD degree in Battle Creek under the tutelage of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, who invented the cornflakes. Dr. Lottie Blake became the first Black woman physician in the State of Alabama and the first Black Adventist physician; and,

WHEREAS, although marriage and family put her teaching plans on hold, Alice later pursued her studies in education earning her college degree from Akron University in 1956 and a Master's degree in 1967 from Andrews University in Michigan. She has worked as teacher, principal, and college teacher in Alabama, New York, Michigan, North Carolina, Jamaica, and South Africa; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to education, Alice was talented in music, Bible, and leadership. She directed standout choirs and even a thirty-member male chorus in Jamaica. She served as a church organist and Bible class leader well into her eighties; and,

WHEREAS, her knowledge of the Bible is legendary. Even now Alice is able to recite passages from the Psalms as well as other verses in scripture. She has been a keen Bible teacher both in church and in religious schools and was a Bible tutor in church evangelistic campaigns in New York, Bermuda, and the Cayman islands; and,

WHEREAS, Alice Brantley has been known for her interest in people particularly the marginalized. She has figured prominently in the lives of many, many people including her students from the United States and overseas. Many former students today indicate her as their "favorite teacher." Quite a few of her grandchildren resided with her at various period of their lives. To them she's affectionately known as "Gran;" and,

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WHEREAS, Alice is very pleased to be reaching the century mark and gives all the glory to God to whom she has dedicated her entire life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that this governing body does hereby officially express the sincere thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Alice Evelyn Brantley on behalf of the entire community for her diligent, dedicated and effective service and join her many family members and friends in wishing her a "Happy 100th Birthday."

ADOPTED this the 7th day of November, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 7th day of November, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama