

RESOLUTION No. 15-128

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mrs. Mary E. Wiggins Lane, will be honored for her active volunteerism in the local community during the "2015 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation held at the Jackson Center on March 14, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Rosetta James Foundation was founded in December 2006. It is a 509 (a) (2) public charity and educational organization founded for the purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community while promoting volunteerism and community outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Foundation's famous "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" is named in honor of Mrs. Rosetta James, a native of Akron, Alabama, in recognition of her outstanding and extraordinary dedication and service to many communities by way of active citizenship. Mrs. James has been determined to seek and search for ways to serve the underserved, minister to the incarcerated, register citizens to vote, provide for the poor and assure hope for the hopeless throughout Huntsville-Madison County for more than 30 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend James and Mrs. Mary E. (Wiggins) Lane have devoted their entire lives in service of family, community and mankind. Their many years are indicative of an unwavering example of parenthood, Christian service and activism; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary E. Wiggins Lane was born on August 10, 1924, the daughter of Robert and Lillie Mae Moore Wiggins. A native of Limestone County, Alabama, she was reared in the Monrovia community. After her parents moved to Madison County, she focused on the value of education and diligently pursued it with studies at Union School, where one teacher taught several grades, and Councill Training School. At Councill Training School, she received the "Best Cook Award" and attended classes with the late Dr. John Cashin, Thomas Hereford, and James Gurley—her friends for a lifetime. She graduated from Councill Training High School in 1945 and enrolled at Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, after completing her freshman year, she taught at the Union School. Many suitors came calling during those days, but only one man won her heart. His advantage was having the ability to ride a bicycle, being a World War II Navy man and owning a bright red 1940 Dodge truck, complete with an old dog named "Red." On October 13, 1946, the two were married on the front porch of her mother's home with many family and community friends attending. Her grandmother, Ella McComb Moore, did all of the cooking for the affair; and,

WHEREAS, like so many women of the time, Mrs. Lane was gifted in a number of areas, including farming, gardening, fishing, cooking and baking, sewing and hairdressing. Nonetheless, Mrs. Lane was ever-mindful of her civic responsibilities and made voting a primary responsibility. She received her voter registration certificate, issued through Madison County, in May 1954. Accompanied by her husband, she has voted at all elections. In the early years following her registration, she paid poll taxes to County of Madison "covering voting privilege;" and,

RESOLUTION No. 15-128

Mrs. Mary E. Wiggins Lane, Page 2

WHEREAS, as the Pastor's wife, Mrs. Lane participated in all church-sponsored activities, including picnics, outreach activities, museum trips, youth-sponsored field trips, nursing home visits and much more. Not only has she tirelessly supported her husband in his role as Pastor of Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, she simultaneously fulfilled the role of loving mother to their five children, enjoying countless birthdays, achievements, family celebrations and reunions, as well as lingering memories of grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2014, numerous family members and friends gathered at The Ledges in Huntsville, Alabama, to celebrate Mrs. Lane's 90th birthday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mrs. Mary E. Wiggins Lane and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of March, 2015.

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

APPROVED this the 12th day of March, 2015.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama