

RESOLUTION NO. 16-138

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mountain Gap School celebrates its 50th Anniversary the month of February, with a celebration to be held February 28, 2016, at the school; and,

WHEREAS, in February 1966, Mountain Gap School opened its doors with 987 students, even though construction wasn't quite complete; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Augusta Black, Mrs. Ann Sanders, Mrs. Sandy McGuire, Mrs. Dorothy Crowley, Mrs. Jane Woodfin, Mrs. Ruby Proctor, Mrs. Jeri Jackson, Mrs. Peggy Householder, Mrs. Merle Englebert, Mrs. Janice Martin, Mrs. Doris Ingram, Mrs. Nancy Brown, Mrs. Eleanor Kilbourne, and Mrs. Peggy Pettiiprin were the first elementary teachers. Mrs. Judy Bailey, Mrs. Val Fulmer, Mrs. Betty Gibson, Mr. Bob Englebert, Mrs. Betty Rogers, Mrs. Molly Hendricks, and Mrs. Linda Bobo taught the junior high students. Mrs. Esther Lowell taught music and band throughout the entire school, and Miss Nancy Garner did the same with physical education. Mr. Robert E. Davis was the first principal responsible for both the elementary and junior high. He continued to build a path for all future Mountain Gap principals until 1973; and,

WHEREAS, engaged parents and strong community support have been a tradition at Mountain Gap, and Mr. Bill Ogle served as the first PTA President in the 1966-67 academic year; and,

WHEREAS, in 1982, it was decided that student needs could best be addressed with two principals - one elementary and one junior high. Mrs. JoAnn Sturdivant was appointed as the first elementary school principal; and,

WHEREAS, as the Mountain Gap community grew, Mountain Gap School also needed to grow. In 1976, a new wing was built to house the elementary students. In the fall of 1982, the first classes were held in a new physical education building, and public kindergarten units were added. The first full-time physical education teacher, Mrs. Betty Byrne, was hired in 1983. A band room was added for the junior high students, and in 1985, the computer lab was opened; and,

WHEREAS, by the 1986-87 school year, there were 755 children enrolled for grades K-5, nine portable classrooms were being utilized, and Mountain Gap was bursting at the seams. As construction of new homes continued, the Huntsville School Board recognized the issue of overcrowding. The board approved the transfer of all fourth-grade students to Jones Valley School until Challenger was completed. In the fall of 1989, 330 elementary students and numerous middle school students said goodbye to Mountain Gap and began a new tradition at Challenger School; and,

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WHEREAS, Mountain Gap operated as two separate schools, Mountain Gap Elementary and Mountain Gap Middle, until the 2012-2013 academic year when the school once again joined under the leadership of one principal as Mountain Gap School; and,

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Mountain Gap students were known as the Mountaineers, in the 1980s, they were the Raiders, and in the 1990s, they were the Grizzlies and the Bear Cubs. Today, all Mountain Gap students are the Grizzlies; and,

WHEREAS, today under the leadership of Mrs. Heather Bardwell, the tradition of excellence continues for all 775 students currently passing through the halls of Mountain Gap School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Mountain Gap School in recognition of its 50th Anniversary. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 25th day of February, 2016.

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

APPROVED this the 25th day of February, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama