

RESOLUTION No. 16-181

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mother Betty Joyce-Ford Craighead will be honored for her active volunteerism in the local community during the "2016 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation, held at the Jackson Center on March 12, 2016; 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 the past 35 years, and continues to be an exemplar of servant citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, Mother Betty Joyce Ford Craighead is a native Huntsvillian who is the first of four children born to the late Walter and Lucy Steele Ford. She attended Winston Street Elementary School, Councill High School, and Alabama A&M University. She married Willie Mack Craighead, her high school sweetheart, and they are the parents of Karen Craighead McGlathery and Roderick T. Craighead; They have two grandsons and three great-granddaughters; and,

WHEREAS, she joined Huntsville Hospital as a Unit Secretary in the Pediatrics, Medical/Surgical Unit, and Labor & Delivery in 1965. Exposed to every facet of medicine, she gained a great love for and knowledge of the medical profession. However, the Labor & Delivery area was truly her passion, recording and witnessing the births of many babies in Huntsville; and,

WHEREAS, in 1970, Medical Center Hospital was opened by a group of doctors and Mrs. Craighead was hired, taking her to another level in the medical field. Medical Center was later purchased by Humana Hospital, but kept her in the same position as Operating Room Secretary. She was promoted to Customer Service Representative and then to Customer Service Supervisor, retiring from Humana in 1996; and,

WHEREAS, a faithful member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for over 45 years, she has served in positions ranging from the Stitching and Quilting Ministry to Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 2012, she was asked to do a commercial for First Community Health Plan, due in part to her work in health insurance and her affiliation

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with the Stitching and Quilting Ministry. She is indeed a dedicated leader who loves people; and,

WHEREAS, among her many community-service projects are her service as Director of Rural Senior Services (Union Chapel Center); Advisor, Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Alabama A&M University Successful Aging Initiative, 14 years; Representative, Alabama Alzheimer's Campaign, 2010; St. Jude Children Research (Campaign for a Cure); and others; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Craighead enjoys sewing and creative arts. She has traveled throughout the United States and to several foreign countries, including Israel, The Bahamas; Cozumel, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; Tanzania; and Nairobi, Kenya, where she was adopted by the Kuria tribe and given the tribal name of "Robi." She has been abundantly blessed by God.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mother Betty Joyce-Ford Craighead and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

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

APPROVED this the 10th day of March, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama