

RESOLUTION No. 16-188

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Reverend Dr. Julius Scruggs will be honored as a "Pioneer" for his exemplary service throughout the religious 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, born in Elkton, Tennessee, and raised in Toney, Alabama, Reverend Dr. Julius Richard Scruggs is a graduate of Councill Training High School in Huntsville, Alabama. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, he also fulfilled requirements for the Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degrees at Vanderbilt University School of Divinity. In December of 2011, Dr. Scruggs was conferred the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, at the age of 18, he began service as Pastor of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Harvest, Alabama, and served from 1960-1965. Rev. Scruggs then pastored the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in Nashville, and later led the Antioch Baptist Church in East Chicago, Indiana, from 1972-1977. Since January of 1977, Rev. Dr. Scruggs has been the shepherd of God's people at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the author of four books, Scruggs has served on the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College; as a member of the National Board of Directors, NAACP; as a board member of Selma University; and as President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention. In 2009, in Memphis, Tennessee, Pastor Scruggs was overwhelmingly elected as the 17th President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, he is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton, and they are the proud parents of a daughter, Jennifer Juliette Scruggs, and

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a son, Morris Errol Tipton, II. They have three grandchildren: Morris E. Tipton, III, Morgan Taylor Tipton, and Elizabeth Francina Scruggs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Reverend Dr. Julius Scruggs 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