

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** In June 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order establishing the Fair Employment Commission to break down racial discrimination barriers that affected African-Americans aspiring to join the defense industry during World War II; and

**WHEREAS:** This landmark order paved the way for the Montford Point Marines, the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942; and

**WHEREAS:** Among the Marines sent to Montford Point Camp is Jacksonville native Alpha P. Gainous, who enlisted in June 1943 and finished his military career as a staff sergeant in June 1946; and

**WHEREAS:** Born in Jacksonville on November 15, 1924, Mr. Gainous remains an engaged citizen of his hometown. In his 94 years of life, he has achieved many things, including earning a food science degree from Tuskegee University, and serving as a commercial dietitian, boiler maker in the shipyards, and foreman in the construction industry; and

**WHEREAS:** Mr. Gainous is also a longtime VFW member, joining Post 4761 in 1944. In August, he will reach 75 years of membership, more years than any other member throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2011, Mr. Gainous joined many of his fellow Montford Point Marines in Washington, D.C., to be recognized for their historic contributions to our nation. The following year, he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for his service as one of our country's first black Marines; and

**WHEREAS:** Mr. Gainous has a unique and commendable role in Jacksonville and United States history, and is beloved by his family, friends, faith community at St. Paul AME Church, and the City of Jacksonville.

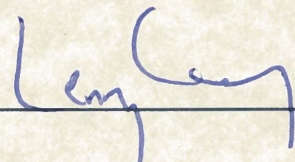
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby – in conjunction with our city's observance of African-American History Month – recognize and honor

## **ALPHA P. GAINOUS**

as an extraordinary Jacksonville native and encourage all citizens to celebrate his many accomplishments and service to our nation.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February  
in the year Two Thousand 19

  
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA