

## RESOLUTION

R-09-374

CITY HALL: July 23, 2009

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS HEDGE-MORRELL AND WILLARD-LEWIS

**WHEREAS**, St. Augustine High School's quintessential Band Master, **Mr. Edwin Hampton**, who will forever be remembered for the look and sound of the marching 100 Purple Knights, died Tuesday morning, July 21, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mr. Hampton** took over the band in 1952, the second year after the school's founding, and honed his vision to instill a "different style of marching" in his students resulting in the complicated formation known as "patterns in motion"; and

**WHEREAS**, "**Hamp**", as he was fondly called, was a mentor to thousands of musicians, young men who passed through the ranks of the Marching 100. He was a disciplinarian but a gentle man who taught teamwork through practice and hard work, first appealing to the integrity of the young men and requiring that they reciprocate with honesty.

**WHEREAS**, many of his former students remember the impact upon their lives. His students are quoted to say "*he taught manhood*", "*he was preparing us for the future and beyond*", "*he was my start – many of us who had the potential for college without the funding capabilities were accepted because of his recommendation, his word that we would do the college or university proud*"; and

**WHEREAS**, as the founding director of the most popular school marching band in New Orleans, he ensured the band's signature show band style with a mix of music, athletic performance and military precision, continued to maintain high musical standards in a changing musical world; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Augustine Marching 100 band became so renown, that in 1967, the band is credited with desegregating Carnival, by being the first African American band to march down St. Charles Ave. in the Rex parade. The band, under **Mr. Hampton's** direction, achieved national accolades performing for Pope John Paul II, eight United States presidents, several Super Bowl audiences, the Tournament of Roses Parade in California, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the mystique of the band, yet more importantly, the discipline, respect, leadership, pride and code of conduct instilled in and displayed by the students, St. Augustine Marching 100 Purple Knights was able to march through years of insults, vile projectiles and roses; and

**WHEREAS**, it was apparent that **Mr. Hampton** made St. Augustine High School his life, living and loving the young men with every fiber of his being and placing an indelible influence on the character and culture of the school; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mr. Hampton** was born in Jacksonville, Texas in 1928 and travelled to New Orleans to attend Xavier University. In addition to his work at St. Augustine High School, he also played piano and saxophone, most notably in the Royal Dukes of Rhythm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hampton is survived by his daughter Tamara Hingle, and four grandchildren, Yakitha, Mikell, Malcolm and Anthony Hingle; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That this Council shares the loss of the iconic band master

**Mr. Edwin Harrell Hampton**

who was revered as a living legend and acknowledges that the world is most certainly a better place for the fruits of his labor will continue to abound and create educated, disciplined, talented and proud men whose foundation is mixed with integrity, love, service and purpose.

*"RISE SONS OF THE GOLD AND PURPLE"*

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

G:RESOLUTS/09-57