

❧ CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION ❧

WHEREAS, Annie Shepherd Rutledge was born in Vermont Heights, St. Johns County, Florida on January 31, 1913 to Sanco Shepherd and Addie Walker Shepherd, moving with her family to St. Augustine in 1919, to a home on Washington Street, and in 1944 moved with her family to their current residence on Lovett Street; and

WHEREAS, Annie Shepherd Rutledge began her love of education at the Mather-Perry Presbyterian School, graduating from Excelsior High School in 1929, receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Florida Memorial College, completing advanced studies at Betune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida and Winston-Salem Teacher's College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and obtaining her Masters of Education Degree in Special Education from Teacher's College of Columbia University in New York City, New York in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Annie Shepherd Rutledge, married Edward Rutledge, giving birth to Rosalind (deceased), Patricia (deceased), Gwendolyn and Delores; and

WHEREAS, the extensive teaching career of Mother Rutledge, as she is affectionately known, began in Jackson County Florida, where she taught schools in Bascom, Graceville and Sneads, then moving on to St. Johns County, instructing eight grades in a one-room church on Toco Road and children whose parents worked in a nearby turpentine camp, eventually being transferred to Webster Elementary School and then to Excelsior High School, and being recognized as one of the very best teachers in St. Johns County, she was given an assignment to teach special education at Mill Creek Elementary School, where she remained until her retirement in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Mother Rutledge's Christian home has been First Baptist Church since 1919, being baptized in 1925, and for more than 90 years she gave of her many talents in the choir program, as a Sunday School Teacher, member of the Missionary Society, Director of the Red Circle and Sunshine Band, Baptist Training Union, Vacation Bible School teacher, Chair of Mother's Day and Youth Day Programs, and many additional special Christian events, as well as the St. Johns County Democratic Party, Council on Aging, Retired Teachers Association of St. Johns County, Order of the Eastern Star, NAACP, National Baptist Convention and Ancient City Choir Guild.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, does hereby recognize Annie Shepherd Rutledge for her dedication to educational excellence, her countless contributions to the community and joins her devoted daughters, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, sister-in-law, cousins and a host of extended family, friends and former students in remembering her loving smile, and her kind and gentle spirit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 5th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven and the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

Mayor Joseph Boles