

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Johnson Chestnut, born enslaved, was a master carpenter and furniture maker. He migrated to Alachua County from Camden, South Carolina in the 1850's and served on the Gainesville City Council from 1868-1870; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of Johnson Chestnut have made significant contributions to the Gainesville/Alachua County community in the areas of politics, community service and business; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, Matthew Hughes and Charles Sumner Chestnut, Sr. organized the Hughes and Chestnut Funeral Home, serving African-American families in Alachua County and surrounding areas. Charles S. Chestnut, Jr. joined Chestnut Funeral Home as a Funeral Director as did Charles S. Chestnut, III, who continues as owner of the business today; and

WHEREAS, the year 2014 marks the 100th or centennial anniversary of Chestnut Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, a series of events has been planned to commemorate this historic occasion, including a special Founders Candlelight Ceremony on Sunday, April 13, 2014 at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2014 as

## *Chestnut Funeral Home Centennial Founders Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing this centennial celebration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, A.D., 2014.



*Ed B. Braddy*  
Edward B. Braddy  
Mayor