

1 [Gerald W. Johnson Day - January 28, 2025]

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3 **Resolution commending Gerald W. Johnson on the occasion of his 100th Birthday, and**
4 **declaring January 28, 2025, as Gerald W. Johnson Day in the City and County of San**
5 **Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Gerald W. Johnson, born January 28, 1925, in New Orleans, Louisiana,
8 has championed legendary contributions to the San Francisco community through organizing
9 and advocating for social justice and equal employment opportunities, particularly within labor
10 union movements; and

11 WHEREAS, Gerald W. Johnson arrived in San Francisco in 1946 after serving with
12 the United States Navy in North Africa during WWII, and alongside friends and allies,
13 immediately formed the Civic Progressive Union to protest the dearth of Black workers within
14 San Francisco's Theatre District, a movement that was later supported by the local chapter of
15 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

16 WHEREAS, In 1969, Gerald W. Johnson started his own lumber company after
17 discovering the absence of Black-owned lumber vendors in the construction of the Martin
18 Luther King-Marcus Garvey Square Cooperative Apartments despite it being built in the
19 historic Black community of the Fillmore District; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1984, Gerald W. Johnson, and his wife and business partner, Valerie
21 Voorhies, co-founded the San Francisco-based Small Business Exchange (SBE) newspaper
22 with the explicit purpose of empowering businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans,
23 disadvantaged and disabled entrepreneurs, with equitable economic opportunities; and

24 WHEREAS, In order to further the movement to integrate African Americans into
25 trade unions during the 1970s, Gerald W. Johnson brought together communities of color,

1 created the Asian Black Latino Enterprises (ABLE), and successfully negotiated an agreement
2 to ensure that the city's minority groups secured work on at least 25% of San Francisco's
3 public school seismic retrofit projects; and

4 WHEREAS, Gerald W. Johnson's steadfast organizing, fearless advocacy, and
5 tireless work to empower small businesses and diverse communities is truly inspirational;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco,
8 in recognition of and to honor his groundbreaking contributions and lifetime of
9 accomplishments dedicated to advancing social and economic justice, do hereby declare
10 January 28, 2025, as Gerald W. Johnson Day; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends its highest
12 commendation to Mr. Johnson on his centennial birthday celebration.