



**CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF MAYOR HARVEY L, WARD JR.**  
**Certificate of Recognition**

Against all odds and with God's Grace, Magnolia B. Jackson will celebrate her 106th Birthday on March 14, 2024. Magnolia B. Jackson is a retired educator who dedicated over 40 years of her life to educating and shaping the minds of thousands of young children. This remarkable Centenarian is worthy of a grand recognition.

Throughout her life, she has touched the minds, hearts, and souls of many people both young and old. Her passion and perseverance for helping young people transcended beyond the classroom. The respect shown to her by former students to this day reflects the powerful impact she had on their early formative years. The sacrifices this dynamic woman contributed to the African American history of Gainesville & Alachua County through education, and empowering her family, her church, and her community.

Born in 1918, being black in a racially separated culture was a very difficult obstacle to overcome during the Jim Crow Era. However, an ambitious Magnolia received the support of her family to attend the prestigious Bethune Cookman College. She had the distinct honor of being a student during the years the institution's legendary founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was there. Magnolia B. Jackson graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.

In 2022, Bethune Cookman University confirmed Magnolia Bradley Jackson as the current oldest living Alumni in the country. Magnolia spends her "golden" years traveling, reading the bible, watching football, Family Feud, Judge Judy, and the local news. She attributes her longevity to "minding her own business" and "putting God first".

Mayor Harvey L. Ward Jr.

February 5, 2024