

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.**

6  
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.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails

Resolution: 035-25

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250064

Date Passed: February 03, 2025

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

January 28, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 250064

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/28/2025 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Signature line for Daniel Lurie
Daniel Lurie
Mayor

02/07/2025

Signature line for Date Approved
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

02/07/2025
Date