PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes that a Centenarian is a person who has attained the age of 100 years or more of life, and the community is enriched by Centenarians. It is a great distinction for Mr. Robert Mathew Cross to celebrate 100 years of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Mathew Cross was born on September 14, 1911, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to Sonnie and Martha Cross. He was married twice, once to Alberta Turpin, who died in 1941, and later to Mabel Jackson until her death fifty-one years later; and

WHEREAS, upon his mother’s death when Mr. Cross was three, his father took him to Gates, North Carolina, to be raised by his father’s sister, Mary Hunter; there he attended grammar school. In 1931, he graduated high school from Waters Training School in Winton, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Mr. Cross joined the United States Army at Camp Upton in New York. He later transferred to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where he served in the motor pool as a regiment commanding officer’s driver and later as a regimental dispatcher. Upon his honorable discharge, he relocated to New York City where he was employed by the City of New York; there he retired as the Assistant Division Chief of the Emergency Medical Service in 1977; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Mr. Cross and his second wife, Mabel, returned to Pensacola, Florida, and united with the St. Mark AME Zion Church, where he still attends regularly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cross is a very active and vibrant individual who enjoys playing poker and playing pool. His favorite saying is “Never argue with a fool, because people may not know the difference”. In 1981, Mr. Cross traveled with other World War II Veterans on the Emerald Coast Honor Flight to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Centenarians are among the fastest-growing segment of our population and create a link to our history. Mr. Cross lauds the spirit, inspiration and endurance represented by one of our oldest residents and is a valued member of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida, honors and congratulates Mr. Robert Mathew Cross on reaching the age of 100 and extends best wishes to him for continued good health and happiness.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCambia COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Kevin W. White, Chairman, District Five

Wilson B. Robertson, Vice Chairman, District One

Gene M. Valentino, District Two

Marie Young, District Three

Grover C. Robinson, IV, District Four

ATTEST: Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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Deputy Clerk

Adopted: September 15, 2011