

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro and Howland:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-549**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
6 PASSING OF COLONEL FRANCIS "LEN" LOVING, USMC
7 (RET); REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
8 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, born July 20, 1938, in Richmond, Virginia, Francis
11 Leonard Loving, the eldest of his siblings, attended Cathedral High
12 School in Richmond, where he was a standout athlete and earned a
13 scholarship to Southern Benedictine College in Cullman, Alabama; and

14 **WHEREAS**, "Len" Loving graduated from Southern Benedictine
15 College in 1960 as president of the student council and Magna Cum
16 Laude, with a degree in Business Administration; and

17 **WHEREAS**, after graduation, Len Loving was commissioned a Second
18 Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, the beginning of a long
19 and distinguished military career; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Len Loving served multiple tours in Vietnam,
21 was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" for valor, Combat Action
22 Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with two bronze stars, Meritorious
23 Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation,
24 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, and the
25 Humanitarian Service Medal; and

26 **WHEREAS**, during his service, Colonel Len Loving was detailed to
27 the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee to help organize and stage the
28 inauguration of President Ronald Reagan, and he was instrumental in
29 establishing the United States Marine Corps Blount Island Command;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, after retiring from the US Marine Corps in 1989, Colonel

1 Len Loving served as a project manager for Morales & Shumer Engineers,
2 head of security for high-profile athletes during the 1992 Olympic
3 Games, and with the Florida State Comptroller's office; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, Colonel Len Loving embarked upon another
5 chapter of service in the Jacksonville community, as the Chief
6 Executive Officer of the Five STAR Veterans Center, where he
7 demonstrated his dedication to helping homeless veterans, and in
8 recognition of his positive impact on veterans and their families he
9 was inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2017; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Len Loving was a loving husband and father, a
11 friend and mentor, he was a veteran and patriot, and a natural leader
12 who consistently exhibited grace and determination in the face of
13 adversity; and

14 **WHEREAS**, on June 9, 2026, Colonel Francis Leonard "Len" Loving
15 passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family at home at the age
16 of 87, following a courageous battle with cancer; now therefore

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
19 mourns the passing of Colonel Francis Leonard "Len" Loving. Colonel
20 Loving was a hero and true public servant, an advocate for veterans,
21 and a respected leader. The City Council extends condolences to the
22 Loving family and friends, upon his passing.

23 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
24 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
25 introduction of this Resolution is requested. The nature of the
26 emergency is to timely convey condolences to the Loving family.

27 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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