

1 Introduced by Council Member Peluso and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Clark-Murray, Amaro, Carlucci, Freeman and Boylan:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-648-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND  
7 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RITA F. REAGAN; PROVIDING AN  
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Rita Reagan was born on July 24, 1940, in Cynthiana,  
11 Kentucky, and she grew up helping her family on their tobacco farm;  
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Reagan graduated from Eastern Kentucky  
14 University with a bachelor's degree in education, earned her master's  
15 degree from the University of North Florida and a specialist degree  
16 from the University of Florida; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Rita and Harry Reagan were married in 1962 after a  
18 whirlwind courtship. They moved to Jacksonville in 1967, where  
19 together they raised their daughters Danielle and Denise; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Reagan was a dedicated educator and worked as an  
21 English teacher in Duval County Public Schools for 30 years, teaching  
22 at John Gorrie Junior High School, Raines High School and the former  
23 Lee High School, now known as Westside High. She also started the  
24 first peer counseling program in Duval County and served several  
25 years as the district's student activities director; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Reagan was a historical preservationist who  
27 fought for more than 25 years to make the Norman Studios silent film  
28 campus a museum and to spread awareness of its unique place in  
29 history. She served for several years as Norman Studios Silent Film  
30 Museum board chairman and the fruits of her labor were recently  
31 realized when the museum on the site reopened in August after years

1 of renovations; and

2       **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was an urban pioneer who made Springfield  
3 her home for 25 years. She was the volunteer head of Springfield  
4 Preservation and Revitalization and responsible for getting the  
5 donation of the organization's headquarters building on Main Street,  
6 and she almost singlehandedly saved the Klutho apartments on Main  
7 Street from destruction; and

8       **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was known to be full of energy and  
9 passionate about her causes. She was an amazing wife, mother,  
10 grandmother, and community activist who made a permanent impact on  
11 Jacksonville. Rita will be missed by her husband, Harry Reagan,  
12 daughters Danielle Reagan Wampler and Denise Reagan, grandchildren  
13 Carson Wampler, Conner Wampler and Reagan Hoogesteger, sisters  
14 Jeanette Smiley and Tracy Whirls and brother Mac Jones, her neighbors,  
15 her friends, and all who had the pleasure to know her; now therefore

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

17       **Section 1.**       The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life  
18 and accomplishments of Rita F. Reagan. Mrs. Reagan was an intrepid  
19 force for good throughout our community and her legacy will serve as  
20 an inspiration to others in our city. Jacksonville City Council  
21 extends condolences to the Reagan family upon her passing, with the  
22 hope that her memory will provide comfort to those grieving her  
23 loss.

24       **Section 2.       Effective Date.**   This Resolution shall become  
25 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
26 without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

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3           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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