

Introduced by Council Member Johnson:

RESOLUTION 2025-479

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE,
LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF ANDREW "ANDY" EARL
JOHNSON SR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, DEDICATED BROADCASTER, AND
STAUNCH ADVOCATE FOR THE PEOPLE OF JACKSONVILLE;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Andrew "Andy" Earl Johnson Sr., born on January 12,
1953, in Jacksonville, Florida who dedicated his life to public
service, advocacy, and amplifying the voices of everyday citizens,
passed peacefully on June 1, 2025, at the age of 72, surrounded by
his loving wife, Mary, and family; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of
Florida College of Law, Mr. Johnson fused intellectual rigor with
lived experience, having managed his family's North Jacksonville
dairy farm and earning recognition as Outstanding Young Farmer of the
Year before entering public office; and

WHEREAS, Andy Johnson was elected in 1978 to the Florida House
of Representatives, becoming the youngest member at the time,
representing District 19 with conviction and clarity during a pivotal
era in Florida politics; and

WHEREAS, during his legislative tenure, Mr. Johnson championed
bold causes, including the establishment of hospice care, mandatory
seatbelt laws, and the funding for what would become the iconic Dames
Point Bridge, proving that his commitment to public safety and
infrastructure was both visionary and deeply grounded in community
needs; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson stood unwavering in his moral compass,
2 becoming a vocal opponent of capital punishment and bearing witness
3 to the 1979 execution of John Spenkelink, a moment that left a lasting
4 impact on his advocacy and conscience; and

5 **WHEREAS,** though Mr. Johnson experienced several political
6 defeats in the years that followed, he never stopped advocating for
7 the people of Jacksonville, bringing passion, wit, and principle to
8 the airwaves through his populist talk show *Down to Business with*
9 *Andy Johnson*, which aired for decades and became a local institution
10 in its own right; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson's radio work combined social liberalism
12 and fiscal discipline, offering a platform for diverse perspectives
13 and championing ideas that often left unspoken in traditional media
14 spaces, cementing his reputation as a truth-teller and tireless
15 advocate for equity, working people, and good government; and

16 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson was deeply rooted in family, faith, and
17 public service, married to his beloved Mary for 49 years, father to
18 Drew, Daniel, and Kate, and proud grandfather to eight grandchildren
19 filled his final years with joy; and

20 **WHEREAS,** the passing of Andy Johnson marks not just the end of
21 a chapter in Jacksonville's political and civic story, but the
22 celebration of a life lived out loud, with courage, compassion, and
23 conviction, leaving behind a legacy of honesty, advocacy, and
24 authenticity; now therefore

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

26 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the
27 life and legacy of Andrew "Andy" Earl Johnson Sr., expresses its
28 deepest condolences to his family, and recognizes his lifelong
29 dedication to public service, local media, and civic engagement in
30 Jacksonville and throughout the State of Florida.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

3
4 Form Approved:

5
6 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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