

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-617**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
6 LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE
7 OF THE HONORABLE HARRY S. REAGAN, FORMER MEMBER
8 OF JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL, DISTINGUISHED
9 JOURNALIST, HISTORIAN, CIVIC LEADER, AND STEWARD
10 OF JACKSONVILLE'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITION;
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, every generation inherits the responsibility of
14 strengthening the institutions that preserve democracy, protect
15 public trust, and bind communities together, and among those whose
16 lives advanced that enduring responsibility stands Harry S. Reagan,
17 whose extraordinary career reflected an unwavering commitment to
18 truth, service, integrity, and the continual pursuit of a stronger
19 Jacksonville; and

20 **WHEREAS**, during his distinguished twenty-three year career as
21 Editorial Director of WJXT Channel 4, Harry Reagan helped shape the
22 civic conversation of Northeast Florida through principled editorials
23 that challenged complacency, illuminated complex public issues,
24 elevated discourse surrounding civil rights, education, environmental
25 stewardship, governmental transparency, and public infrastructure,
26 and inspired Jacksonville to confront both its challenges and its
27 possibilities with honesty and resolve; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Harry Reagan understood that journalism is far more
29 than a profession; it is a public trust, a covenant between citizens
30 and truth, and an essential pillar of democracy that informs public
31 understanding, encourages thoughtful debate, strengthens

1 accountability, and reminds every generation that an informed people
2 remain the greatest safeguard of self-government; and

3 **WHEREAS**, elected by the citizens of Jacksonville in 1990 to
4 serve on the City Council as an At-Large member, Harry Reagan
5 approached public office with the same intellectual discipline,
6 thoughtful preparation, and unwavering integrity that defined his
7 journalism, championing meaningful governmental reforms, including
8 the establishment of Jacksonville's unitary election system, while
9 consistently placing sound public policy above personal ambition and
10 principled leadership above political convenience; and

11 **WHEREAS**, few public servants have traveled the remarkable path
12 that Harry Reagan embraced, from examining government with
13 independence as a respected journalist to strengthening government
14 with wisdom as an elected member of the Jacksonville City Council,
15 demonstrating throughout both callings that accountability and public
16 service are complementary responsibilities united by a common
17 purpose: earning and preserving the public's confidence; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Harry Reagan recognized that the strength of a city is
19 measured not solely by its economic growth or physical development,
20 but by the health of its civic institutions, the preservation of its
21 history, the vitality of its neighborhoods, the accessibility of
22 knowledge, and the willingness of ordinary citizens to become
23 extraordinary stewards of the communities they call home, a philosophy
24 reflected through his leadership with the Jacksonville Sheriff's
25 Office, the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, the
26 Jacksonville Historical Society, Tobacco Free Jacksonville, the
27 Jacksonville Broadcasters Association, and his tireless advocacy for
28 the preservation of Springfield; and

29 **WHEREAS**, beyond every public accomplishment stood a man devoted
30 to faith, family, friendship, and community—a loving husband to Rita
31 for sixty-two years, a devoted father and grandfather, a trusted

1 mentor, and a generous neighbor whose quiet character and steadfast
2 humility left a lasting impression upon all who were privileged to
3 know him; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Harry S. Reagan leaves Jacksonville a legacy that
5 cannot be measured by headlines written, elections won, legislation
6 enacted, or offices held; and his enduring impact will continue
7 through stronger institutions, more informed citizens, preserved
8 history, trusted journalism, thoughtful public service, and a city
9 whose democratic character was immeasurably strengthened because he
10 chose to dedicate his life to its continued progress; now therefore

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

12 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates
13 the life, legacy, and extraordinary public service of The Honorable
14 Harry S. Reagan, whose lifelong devotion to journalism, public
15 service, historic preservation, civic leadership, and democratic
16 ideals permanently enriched the City of Jacksonville and established
17 a standard of integrity that will continue to inspire generations of
18 public servants, journalists, and community leaders. The City Council
19 extends its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family
20 of Harry S. Reagan, his children, his grandchildren, extended family,
21 colleagues, and countless friends whose lives were enriched by his
22 wisdom, generosity, and his unwavering example. The City Council
23 further recognizes that Harry Reagan understood a timeless truth:
24 that democracy is strengthened every time a citizen chooses service
25 over self, truth over convenience, integrity over expedience, and
26 future generations over personal recognition. His life remains a
27 lasting testament to the enduring power of principled leadership and
28 faithful citizenship.

29 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
31 without the Mayor's signature.

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