

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Peluso, Miller and Johnson:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-405-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING JUDGE JAMES A. RUTH FOR  
7 HIS OUTSTANDING LEGAL CAREER AND HIS SERVICE TO  
8 OUR CITY AND OUR COUNTRY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
9 DATE.

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable James A. Ruth was born the son of two  
12 teachers in Palatka, but spent most of his life in Jacksonville where  
13 he graduated from Jean Ribault High School; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Judge Ruth matriculated to Florida State University on  
15 an athletic scholarship, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminology,  
16 Master of Science in Public Administration, and a Juris Doctorate  
17 degree; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Judge Ruth is a 1976 initiate of the Florida State  
19 University Chapter, the Theta Eta of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity,  
20 Inc., and is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable James A. Ruth, a former corrections  
22 officer, is a proud veteran honored with numerous military awards  
23 including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on  
24 Terror Expeditionary Medal, and the Florida Distinguished Service  
25 Cross; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable James A. Ruth presided in Duval County  
27 Court from 1991 until his retirement in 2025, and during his tenure  
28 he was a mentor and role model for countless young attorneys; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Judge Ruth is a trailblazer, he was Duval County's  
30 first elected black judge, and the first Florida judge deployed to a  
31 combat zone during Operation Iraqi Freedom; now therefore

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

2           **Section 1.**           The City Council hereby honors the distinguished  
3 legal career of the Honorable James A. Ruth. The City Council extends  
4 appreciation to Judge Ruth for his decades on the bench, for his  
5 military service and heroism, and for being an exemplary role model  
6 to so many in Jacksonville.

7           **Section 2.           Effective Date.**   This Resolution shall become  
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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