

1 Introduced by Council Member Becton:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-252**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE  
6 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE AND KERNAN HODGES  
7 IN SHAPING THE FORM AND FUTURE OF JACKSONVILLE;  
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, George H. Hodges, Jr., a native of Jacksonville,  
11 graduated from the Bolles School and from Jacksonville University and  
12 served in the Florida Air National Guard; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hodges began his training in the practical aspects  
14 of real estate development at Duval Engineering and Contracting, one  
15 of Jacksonville's premier development companies founded by his  
16 father, George Sr., and Alexander Brest, where he learned the  
17 engineering and construction business from the ground up; and

18 **WHEREAS**, following his father's death in 1975, he took over  
19 sole management of the family's 5,000 acres of property on  
20 Jacksonville's Southside in addition to some 10,000 acres of land in  
21 a real estate trust that he had managed since 1973. In this Owner-  
22 Agent capacity, he finalized his family's donation of needed right-  
23 of-way for the construction of J. Turner Butler Boulevard, and he  
24 envisioned and orchestrated the design, permitting, construction and  
25 dedication to the public of Abess and Ashley Melisse Boulevards,  
26 Matthew Unger Drive and the majority of Kernan Boulevard, all at no  
27 cost to the City; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hodges oversaw the master planning and orderly  
29 sale of all of the Trust-owned property between St Johns Bluff and  
30 San Pablo Roads from north of Butler Boulevard to Hidden Hills Country  
31 Club. At the same time, he shepherded the sale and development of his

1 family's property north of Butler Boulevard, including the daily  
2 management of Glen Kernan Golf & Country Club until his death, while  
3 ensuring via conservation easements with the State of Florida that  
4 nearly 3,000 acres lying south of Butler Boulevard will remain largely  
5 undeveloped green space for the benefit of the city's environment;  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Hodges and his wife Kernan have followed their  
8 family's tradition of generous philanthropy to a wide range of causes  
9 and institutions in which they believed, including among many others,  
10 Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville University and the University of North  
11 Florida, the Bolles School, Children's Home Society and Hodges  
12 Boulevard Presbyterian Church. In 2016, they were named to the UNF  
13 Athletics Department's Hall of Fame for their contribution and  
14 development of the Hodges Track & Field Stadium and the Browning  
15 Rehab Center located at the stadium; and

16 **WHEREAS,** in addition to his business and civic interests, Mr.  
17 Hodges was a great sportsman and enjoyed various sports including  
18 golf, tennis, hunting, shooting and big-game fishing. In the 1980's,  
19 with a reinvigorated interest in flying, he continued the training  
20 begun in 1960, ultimately earning an airline transport pilot rating  
21 with pilot-in-command privileges in several different jet makes and  
22 models; and

23 **WHEREAS,** with Mr. Hodges' passing the city has lost a legendary  
24 figure whose family has changed the face of Jacksonville both by  
25 shaping the sensible and coordinated development of a huge swath of  
26 the city's Southside over the course of many decades and also through  
27 its generous philanthropy to a wide variety of worthy causes and  
28 institutions; now therefore

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

30 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates  
31 the life and countless accomplishments of George and Kernan Hodges

1 over the course of decades to shape the form and the future of  
2 Jacksonville through their great generosity. Mr. Hodges was a  
3 legendary figure in the Jacksonville community and his example of  
4 civic involvement will leave a lasting legacy that the community  
5 gratefully acknowledges.

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

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10 Form Approved:

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12           /s/ Carla A. Lopera          

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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