

1 Introduced by Council Member Pittman:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2026-405**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/ Shannon MacGillis

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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