

1 Introduced by Council Members Dennis, Gaffney, Morgan, Wilson,
2 White, Salem, Newby, Diamond, DeFoor, Hazouri, Becton, Bowman,
3 Freeman, Priestly Jackson, Carlucci, Cumber, Ferraro, Pittman, and
4 Boylan:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-85-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE
9 LIFE AND OUTSTANDING CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
10 FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR JAKE M.
11 GODBOLD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12
13 **WHEREAS**, lifelong Jacksonville resident Jake Godbold was
14 raised in very humble circumstances in public housing in
15 Jacksonville's Brentwood neighborhood, graduated from Andrew
16 Jackson High School, served in the U.S. Army, sold insurance door-
17 to-door, and for many years owned a janitorial supply company. As a
18 civic-minded activist he was President of the Jaycees, President of
19 Big Brothers and the Boys Club, and Chairman of the Muscular
20 Dystrophy campaign; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Godbold, who was always a civic booster and
22 believed in the power of the city government to improve the lives
23 of the average citizen, was elected to the first Consolidated City
24 of Jacksonville City Council in 1967 and re-elected in 1971 and
25 1975. He was elected Council President by his peers in 1978 and
26 held that position when then-Mayor Hans Tanzler resigned from
27 office to become a candidate for Governor, whereupon, by virtue of
28 the City Charter, he became Mayor; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Godbold's two terms in office were
30 characterized by boundless boosterism and an unflagging
31 determination to raise Jacksonville's stature and put his home town

1 on the map as a great city. He presided over a "billion dollar
2 decade" in which the city built the Southbank Riverwalk, converted
3 Jacksonville's former rail terminal into the Prime Osborn
4 Convention Center, and constructed the Jacksonville Landing while
5 numerous private businesses relocated to Jacksonville and built
6 their own buildings throughout the city; and

7 **WHEREAS**, one of the signature accomplishments of his term in
8 office was the night in 1979 when "Colts Fever" brought 55,000
9 football fans to the Gator Bowl to greet then-Baltimore Colts owner
10 Robert Irsay in a show of Jacksonville's passion to acquire an NFL
11 team, a dream that was realized more than a decade later with the
12 decision by the NFL to award the city the Jacksonville Jaguars as
13 an expansion franchise; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Jake Godbold was, first and foremost, a man of and
15 for the common people, who represented their best interests in City
16 Hall and beyond. He was fearless in speaking his mind on any and
17 all subjects, regardless of the potential risks, and came out of
18 controversies stronger than ever because of his reputation for
19 absolute honesty and forthrightness. In the decades since he left
20 office his counsel was sought by countless political and business
21 leaders, and his friendship and helpful concern was enjoyed by tens
22 of thousands of his friends and former constituents; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and
25 commemorates the life and outstanding civic accomplishments of
26 former City Council member, City Council President and Mayor Jake
27 Godbold. His love for the City and the citizens of Jacksonville was
28 unparalleled, and he was truly one of the giant figures in
29 Jacksonville's history. His legacy will be long and gratefully
30 remembered by generations of Jacksonville citizens, and the City
31 Council extends to his family and countless friends and admirers

1 its sincere condolences.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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8 /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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