

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-803**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
6 THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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9 **WHEREAS**, in 1969, Jacksonville was the last major city in Florida
10 without a state university. After authorization by the Florida
11 Legislature, a site was selected for the public university by the
12 Board of Regents and approved by the State Board of Education. The
13 1,000-acre campus was donated by area landowners and the City of
14 Jacksonville, midway between the beaches and the city; and

15 **WHEREAS**, under a tight timeline, the university's inaugural
16 president, Dr. Thomas G. Carpenter, hastened to recruit 117 faculty
17 and 150 staff members. On October 2, 1972, the University of North
18 Florida welcomed its first class of 2,027 upper division and master's-
19 level students, mostly non-traditional older college students living
20 in the Jacksonville area; and

21 **WHEREAS**, there were initially only four major buildings on
22 campus, with colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, and Business
23 Administration. In 1974, an expansion added a library and student
24 services area, and full accreditation by the Southern Association of
25 Colleges and Schools was approved for both the undergraduate and
26 graduate level programs simultaneously; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in 1979, the Osprey swooped in to become UNF's official
28 mascot, winning a write-in vote in a campus-wide election even though
29 there was no sports team to represent at that time. Four years later,
30 the school joined the National Association of Intercollegiate
31 Athletics, and in 2009 transitioned from NCAA Division II to Division

1 I sports; and

2 **WHEREAS**, on June 22, 1980, the Florida Legislature proposed to
3 merge UNF with UF casting doubt on UNF's future. Charter staff member
4 George Corrick and the late Senator Joe Carlucci battled to defeat
5 the bill to ensure UNF's potential to become a fully-fledged four-
6 year university. Though the merger bill passed both houses, it was
7 vetoed by then-Governor Bob Graham. As a result, UNF admitted freshmen
8 and sophomores for the first time in 1984, and by 1995, enrollment
9 exceeded 10,000 students. Two decades after the merger attempt, UNF
10 broke its own commencement record, graduating more than 1,000 students
11 in a single cohort; and

12 **WHEREAS**, over the past 50 years, UNF has grown into a vibrant
13 public university and has championed preservation of its natural
14 environment, including the 382-acre Sawmill Slough wetland preserve
15 and miles of nature trails; and

16 **WHEREAS**, today, UNF serves more than 17,000 students, employs
17 more than 1,800 faculty and staff members, and offers dozens of
18 undergraduate and graduate programs within six colleges. This year,
19 the school earned its R2 distinction, an honor given to universities
20 with a certain amount of doctoral programs with high research
21 activity. In 2021, U.S. News & World Report ranked UNF 136nd in public
22 universities, and for twelve consecutive years UNF has been ranked
23 among the nation's most military-friendly schools; now therefore

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

25 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the
26 University of North Florida's Golden Anniversary. Jacksonville City
27 Council commends UNF on its progression from a small commuter campus
28 to a sprawling center of higher learning that includes art, music,
29 athletics, student government and a robust campus life.

30 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

1 without the Mayor's signature.

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3 Form Approved:

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5 /s/ Paige Johnston

6 Office of General Counsel

7 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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