

1 Introduced by Council Member Gaffney and Co-sponsored by Council
2 President Newby and Council Members Priestly Jackson, Morgan, and
3 Pittman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2022-184**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFETIME OF
8 ACHIEVEMENTS AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF COACH
9 JAMES DAY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

11 **WHEREAS**, James Day began his career in athletics as an intern
12 under Earl Kitchings, and became the track coach at Raines High School
13 in 1966, just after the opening of the Northwest Jacksonville school,
14 where he remained in charge of the boys track and field program until
15 1997; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Coach James Day led the Vikings to state runner-up
17 finishes in 1973 and 1974, and to state championships in 1976 and
18 1989. Under his leadership, Raines athletes won 19 individual Florida
19 High School Athletic Association boys titles and a dozen state relays.
20 Coach Day was inducted into the National High School Coaches
21 Association Hall of Fame in Rochester, Minnesota in 2015; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day was one of the founders of the prestigious
23 Bob Hayes Invitational Track Meet, one of the nation's premier high
24 school track and field events. The famed annual track event draws
25 competitors from across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean;
26 and

27 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day retired from coaching and teaching in 1997,
28 dedicating himself full-time to work on the Bob Hayes Invitational
29 Track and Field Meet and at Edward Waters College, where he was the
30 Tigers' athletic director before retiring in 2003; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Coach Day earned the honor of numerous awards over the

1 years, including selection as one of the first-ever finalists in the
2 Pinnacle Award category of the Jacksonville Image Awards, created by
3 News4JAX, CW17 and Graham Media Group to honor achievements in local
4 Black communities, extensive professional accomplishments, and those
5 who are role models for others. Coach Day was named the National High
6 School Athletic Coaches Association United States boys track coach
7 of the year in 1989, and the Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment
8 Board recognized his achievements in April 1999 with its lifetime
9 achievement award; and

10 **WHEREAS**, James Day was a loving husband to Yvonne, and an admired
11 friend and mentor to so many others. Coach Day was revered by those
12 around him, known as a good man who helped so many to become better
13 young men, an unwavering encourager to people and a voice of
14 leadership. Coach Day's life stands out as an example of inspiration,
15 showing how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of so
16 many people; now therefore

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

18 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the
19 lifetime of achievements of track and field icon Coach James Day and
20 extends condolences upon his passing to his family, friends and loved
21 ones. Jacksonville City Council greatly appreciates all he did to
22 impact the lives of student athletes and for all he did to make the
23 city of Jacksonville a better place.

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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