

Introduced by Council Member Gay:

**RESOLUTION 2024-561**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING J.D. THOMPSON FOR HIS  
HEROIC RESCUE OF LINEMAN RANDALL CHAMPION ON  
JULY 17, 1967; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS,** on July 17, 1967, Jacksonville City Electric (now  
JEA) linemen J.D. Thompson and Randall Champion were working on  
utility poles on West 26<sup>th</sup> Street; and

**WHEREAS,** suddenly, Mr. Champion accidentally contacted one of  
the power lines and absorbed more than 2,400 volts of electricity,  
rendering him unconscious and suspended by his safety harness more  
than 20 feet off the ground; and

**WHEREAS,** without pause, J.D. Thompson descended the pole he  
was working on a few hundred feet away and charged towards Mr.  
Champion's pole, ascending rapidly in an effort to save his friend;  
and

**WHEREAS,** J.D. Thompson administered mouth-to-mouth  
resuscitation, desperately trying to breathe life back into Randall  
Champion. When he felt a pulse, he unhooked Mr. Champion's harness  
and helped lower him safely to the ground; and

**WHEREAS,** the heroic rescue was captured by local journalist  
Rocco Morabito in the Pulitzer Prize winning "The Kiss of Life"  
photograph, which appeared in newspapers around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** as a result of the incident, JEA implemented  
"horizontal hurtman training" for new linemen to prepare them to  
respond quickly when such an emergency occurs again; now therefore

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

**Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends J.D.

1 Thompson for his heroic rescue of fellow lineman Randall Champion.  
2 Because of Mr. Thompson's brave action, Mr. Champion survived, was  
3 able to return to work as a lineman and was later promoted to  
4 troubleshooter as a result of the rescue.

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

8  
9 Form Approved:

10  
11 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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