

1 Introduced by Council Member Johnson and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Pittman, Carrico, Carlucci and Salem:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-479-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE,  
7 LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF ANDREW "ANDY" EARL  
8 JOHNSON SR., FORMER MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE  
9 OF REPRESENTATIVES, DEDICATED BROADCASTER, AND  
10 STAUNCH ADVOCATE FOR THE PEOPLE OF JACKSONVILLE;  
11 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12  
13 **WHEREAS,** Andrew "Andy" Earl Johnson Sr., born on January 12,  
14 1953, in Jacksonville, Florida who dedicated his life to public  
15 service, advocacy, and amplifying the voices of everyday citizens,  
16 passed peacefully on June 1, 2025, at the age of 72, surrounded by  
17 his loving wife, Mary, and family; and

18 **WHEREAS,** a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of  
19 Florida College of Law, Mr. Johnson fused intellectual rigor with  
20 lived experience, having managed his family's North Jacksonville  
21 dairy farm and earning recognition as Outstanding Young Farmer of the  
22 Year before entering public office; and

23 **WHEREAS,** Andy Johnson was elected in 1978 to the Florida House  
24 of Representatives, becoming the youngest member at the time,  
25 representing District 19 with conviction and clarity during a pivotal  
26 era in Florida politics; and

27 **WHEREAS,** during his legislative tenure, Mr. Johnson championed  
28 bold causes, including the establishment of hospice care, mandatory  
29 seatbelt laws, and the funding for what would become the iconic Dames  
30 Point Bridge, proving that his commitment to public safety and  
31 infrastructure was both visionary and deeply grounded in community

1 needs; and

2 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson stood unwavering in his moral compass,  
3 becoming a vocal opponent of capital punishment and bearing witness  
4 to the 1979 execution of John Spenkelink, a moment that left a lasting  
5 impact on his advocacy and conscience; and

6 **WHEREAS,** though Mr. Johnson experienced several political  
7 defeats in the years that followed, he never stopped advocating for  
8 the people of Jacksonville, bringing passion, wit, and principle to  
9 the airwaves through his populist talk show *Down to Business with*  
10 *Andy Johnson*, which aired for decades and became a local institution  
11 in its own right; and

12 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson's radio work combined social liberalism  
13 and fiscal discipline, offering a platform for diverse perspectives  
14 and championing ideas that often left unspoken in traditional media  
15 spaces, cementing his reputation as a truth-teller and tireless  
16 advocate for equity, working people, and good government; and

17 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Johnson was deeply rooted in family, faith, and  
18 public service, married to his beloved Mary for 49 years, father to  
19 Drew, Daniel, and Kate, and proud grandfather to eight grandchildren  
20 filled his final years with joy; and

21 **WHEREAS,** the passing of Andy Johnson marks not just the end of  
22 a chapter in Jacksonville's political and civic story, but the  
23 celebration of a life lived out loud, with courage, compassion, and  
24 conviction, leaving behind a legacy of honesty, advocacy, and  
25 authenticity; now therefore

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

27 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the  
28 life and legacy of Andrew "Andy" Earl Johnson Sr., expresses its  
29 deepest condolences to his family, and recognizes his lifelong  
30 dedication to public service, local media, and civic engagement in  
31 Jacksonville and throughout the State of Florida.

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

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Nayeli Jimenez, City Council Research

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