

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson, White, Salem and Carlucci:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-647**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE  
6 AND COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER CITY  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE EVELYN  
8 DENISE LEE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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10 **WHEREAS,** Evelyn Denise Lee, a Jacksonville native and daughter  
11 of John Henry Lee, a World War II Veteran and Sleeping Car Porter,  
12 and the former Leanora Daniels, a teacher, attended Duval County  
13 Public Schools and attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
14 University; and

15 **WHEREAS,** Ms. Lee was drawn to electoral politics from an early  
16 age and spent most of her life involved in campaigns, elections and  
17 governance, working on or managing the campaigns of a long list of  
18 Democratic candidates at the local, state and national level; and

19 **WHEREAS,** her own entry into political office came in September  
20 of 1982 when she was selected by the City Council to fill a vacancy  
21 on the body caused by the death of the legendary Council Member Sallye  
22 Mathis. She subsequently won her election for a first full term in  
23 1983 and thereafter was re-elected to represent District 8 in 1987,  
24 1991 and 1995, leaving office in 1999 due to the imposition of a two-  
25 term limit on Council Members several years earlier; and

26 **WHEREAS,** in November of 1999 Ms. Lee was elected to represent  
27 District 15 of the Florida House of Representatives to fill a vacancy  
28 left by the resignation of State Representative Wyllie Frank Clayton  
29 Dennis and was re-elected to a full term for 2000-2002. In 2007, she  
30 was once again elected to the City Council and re-elected in 2011,  
31 leaving office again due to term limits in 2015 after serving a total

1 of 25 years on the Jacksonville City Council, the second longest  
2 tenure in the consolidated government era following only Council  
3 Member Warren Anthony Jones who served for 28 years; and

4 **WHEREAS,** throughout her years in public office, Ms. Lee carried  
5 a well-earned reputation as a tireless and tenacious advocate for her  
6 constituents and her District, especially for those in most need of  
7 assistance and attention to their issues. She consistently sought and  
8 won the resources needed to improve conditions in her District,  
9 seeking capital project funding and programmatic attention from City  
10 and state departments to ensure that equal resources were provided  
11 to all communities. She was especially passionate about fighting  
12 blight and deterioration both in her district and throughout the city  
13 as a fundamental way to improve the perception of neighborhoods as  
14 good places to live and work and to increase the self-esteem and  
15 pride of the residents of those neighborhoods; and

16 **WHEREAS,** throughout her lifetime and her decades of public  
17 service, Ms. Lee was a passionate representative for her constituents'  
18 needs and a formidable advocate for the under-represented, as well  
19 as a loyal friend; her passion and dedication to service will long  
20 be remembered; now therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commemorates  
23 the life and countless accomplishments of former City Council Member  
24 and State Representative Evelyn Denise Lee on the occasion of her  
25 passing. The Council extends its sincere condolences to Ms. Lee's  
26 daughter, grandchildren, family, friends, and countless admirers. Her  
27 life of service to the City of Jacksonville and its residents stands  
28 as a lasting legacy to her memory.

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

1 Form Approved:

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3           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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