

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci:  
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-478**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE  
6 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WJXT CHIEF METEOROLOGIST  
7 GEORGE WINTERLING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS PASSING  
8 AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY,  
9 FRIENDS AND COUNTLESS ADMIRERS; PROVIDING AN  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey native George Winterling moved to  
13 Jacksonville at the age of ten, attended local schools, and then  
14 enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he received training in the  
15 field of meteorology, thereby starting him on the path of a lifelong  
16 passion and career; and

17 **WHEREAS**, upon discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Winterling  
18 continued his academic studies at Jacksonville Junior College, now  
19 known as Jacksonville University, and then at Florida State  
20 University, where he received his degree in meteorology prior to  
21 beginning his career as a meteorologist with what is today called the  
22 National Weather Service; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 1962, George Winterling approached WJXT Channel 4  
24 with the then-radical idea that trained meteorologists should be  
25 providing customized local weather information on television news  
26 programs rather than announcers reading Weather Service forecasts  
27 from scripts, and the station took him up on his offer, beginning a  
28 47-year career of providing the viewing public with accurate,  
29 informative, and customized weather forecasting on The Local Station;  
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Winterling was a pioneer in television weather

1 forecasting and reporting, and invented many of the techniques and  
2 technologies that we take for granted today in TV weather reporting.  
3 He designed and copyrighted space-view weather maps to show viewers  
4 how weather systems move across the United States, initiated  
5 predicting rainfall probability, and even chased storms and weather  
6 events, filming them with his 16mm camera and using single frame  
7 photos and stop-motion animation to put the weather in motion for  
8 viewers. In 1978, he coined the term "humiture", which explained the  
9 apparent heat a person felt by factoring in both temperature and  
10 humidity, and a year later the National Weather Service adopted his  
11 scale as what we now know as the "heat index"; and

12 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Winterling was well known and highly respected  
13 for his timely and accurate forecasting skills in the face of the  
14 constantly changing conditions in Northeast Florida, particularly  
15 when tropical storms and hurricanes threatened the area. In 1964, he  
16 noted the falling barometric pressure in Daytona Beach and correctly  
17 predicted the path of Hurricane Dora, which brought fierce 100 mph  
18 winds and a destructive storm surge when it passed over our coast  
19 near St. Augustine; and

20 **WHEREAS,** George Winterling will always be remembered as a  
21 beloved and trusted friend and for his unique ability to make complex  
22 meteorological concepts understandable and relatable to the average  
23 television viewer. He brought a sense of humor, a down-to-earth  
24 personality, and a unique personal touch to his work and gained the  
25 confidence of generations of local TV viewers who relied on him decade  
26 after decade to give them accurate and timely forecasts by which to  
27 guide their lives and keep their families safe; and

28 **WHEREAS,** with his recent passing at the age of 91, Jacksonville  
29 and Northeast Florida have lost a giant in the world of television  
30 news and a true and trusted friend; now therefore

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

1           **Section 1.**           The City Council hereby honors and commemorates  
2 the life and countless accomplishments of former WJXT-TV4 chief  
3 meteorologist George Winterling on the occasion of his passing, and  
4 extends to his family, friends, and countless long-time viewers the  
5 City's sincere condolences. The amount of information, education,  
6 personal connection and reassurance he brought to his viewers for  
7 five decades is beyond measure, and his contributions to Jacksonville  
8 and Northeast Florida will be long and gratefully remembered.

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

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13 Form Approved:

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15           /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos          

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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