

1 Introduced by Council Member Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2021-387**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING 7-YEAR-
6 OLD CHASE POUST ON HIS QUICK THINKING AND
7 BRAVERY IN FACILITATING THE RESCUE OF HIS
8 FATHER AND SISTER FROM A POTENTIAL TRAGEDY IN
9 THE ST. JOHNS RIVER; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
10 DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend 2021, Steven
13 Poust and his son Chase, age 7, and daughter Abigail, age 4, were
14 enjoying a boating outing on the St. Johns River near Mandarin
15 Point; and

16 **WHEREAS**, while swimming in her life preserver, Abigail was
17 separated from the boat by a strong current and began to drift
18 away, followed by Chase who tried to retrieve her and by her father
19 trying to retrieve both his children. As Steven Poust pursued his
20 drifting daughter, young Chase changed course and swam toward shore
21 to seek help; and

22 **WHEREAS**, fighting the strong current and alternating between
23 swimming and resting by floating on his back, Chase Poust kept at
24 his task for an hour until he covered the mile to shore and ran to
25 a nearby house to raise the alarm. During Chase's swim to shore,
26 Steven Poust reached his daughter and the two floated in the river
27 with the current for another hour or more until teams from the
28 Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's
29 Office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
30 located the pair and brought them safely to shore; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Chase Poust's quick action, calm thinking, and

1 determination to reach the shore and get help undoubtedly saved his
2 father and sister from a tragic outcome, and his actions are worthy
3 of commendation; now therefore

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

5 **Section 1.** The Council hereby honors and commends 7-year-
6 old Chase Poust for his quick thinking and bravery in completing a
7 dangerous and difficult swim to shore and sounding the alarm to
8 bring rescuers to save his father and sister adrift in the St.
9 Johns River on Memorial Day weekend. The young man demonstrated
10 courage in the face of danger and love for his family, and is to be
11 congratulated for his exemplary actions.

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

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16 Form Approved:

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18 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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