

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro, Miller, Pittman, Johnson, Salem,
2 Lahnen, Gay, Howland and Freeman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-850**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING COLONEL LEN LOVING, USMC
7 (RET) FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND OUR
8 VETERANS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Francis "Len" Loving - USMC (Retired) was born
11 and raised in Richmond, Virginia, graduated from Southern Benedictine
12 College in Alabama, has a master's degree from George Washington
13 University, and began his military career with the U.S. Marine Corps
14 in 1960; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during his time in the Marine Corps, Colonel Loving
16 earned a number of military decorations, including the Legion of
17 Merit with Gold Star, Bronze Star with Combat (V), Combat Action
18 Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with two bronze stars, Meritorious
19 Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation,
20 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, Humanitarian
21 Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Coast Guard
22 Special Operational Ribbon; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Len Loving proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps for
24 almost thirty years, departing as a Colonel, with distinction as a
25 Marine Infantry Officer; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, Col. Len Loving (Ret.) turned his focus upon
27 helping other veterans, founding the Five Star Veterans Center in
28 Jacksonville as the only residential transitional center for veterans
29 in crisis in Northeast Florida; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the Five Star Veterans Center assists veterans
31 experiencing homelessness, providing dignified housing, mental health

resources, job placement, assistance obtaining VA benefits, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, when the Five Star Veterans Center struggled with financial challenges in 2013, Col. Loving kept the doors open by forming partnerships to secure food, volunteers, building materials and expertise, and monetary donations to continue serving veterans in need; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Len Loving has worked tirelessly, and without compensation, to support veterans dealing with Post Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injuries, substance abuse and addiction disorders; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Len Loving was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2017, for his positive impact on Florida's most at-risk veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Len Loving is known to be humble, patient, selfless and kind, and his efforts have made significant and immeasurable differences in the lives of hundreds of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Len Loving exemplifies the Marine Corps motto of Semper Fidelis, remaining always faithful to every veteran who walks through his door; now therefore

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby commends Colonel Francis "Len" Loving -USMC (Retired) for his three decades of service to our country, his tireless mission to support veterans, and for his leadership as the founder and CEO of the Five Star Veterans Center.

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

6 GC-#1719473-v4-Resolution_Len_Loving_Vet_Center (Amaro)