

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Lahnen, Amaro, Salem,
2 Johnson, Gay, Howland, Boylan and Pittman:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-347-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING EUGENE
7 "GENE" FRENETTE FOR HIS 44 YEARS OF
8 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN JOURNALISM AND
9 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY UPON
10 HIS RETIREMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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12 **WHEREAS,** Eugene "Gene" Frenette has enjoyed a distinguished
13 journalism career spanning over five decades, including 44 years
14 dedicated to chronicling sports in Jacksonville, beginning with his
15 role at the Jacksonville Journal in 1981, and subsequently at the
16 Florida Times-Union following the merger of the two newspapers in
17 1983; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Frenette's journalism career began at the Vermont
19 Sunday News, where he covered local high school and college sports,
20 honing his reporting skills and developing his enduring passion for
21 storytelling and sports journalism; and

22 **WHEREAS,** throughout his tenure in Jacksonville, Mr. Frenette
23 provided insightful coverage of the city's most significant sports
24 stories, including the formation and development of the Jacksonville
25 Jaguars, landmark collegiate and high school championships, and
26 memorable community sports events, greatly enriching the local sports
27 culture; and

28 **WHEREAS,** Gene Frenette became widely respected for his
29 commitment to journalistic integrity, professionalism, and his
30 profound ability to capture the human spirit within sports, earning
31 the admiration of readers, athletes, coaches, and colleagues alike;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Frenette's contributions extended beyond writing,
3 as he served as a mentor and role model to numerous young journalists,
4 sharing his expertise and instilling in them a commitment to
5 excellence and ethical journalism; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Frenette's dedication to his craft was
7 significantly supported by his wife of 34 years, Dot Frenette, whose
8 encouragement and partnership provided a foundation throughout his
9 long and impactful career, reflecting a deep personal commitment to
10 family and community; and

11 **WHEREAS,** the warmth, humor, and genuine care Mr. Frenette
12 exhibited in both his professional and personal interactions endeared
13 him greatly to the Jacksonville community, establishing him as not
14 only an iconic sports journalist but also a cherished member of the
15 community; and

16 **WHEREAS,** upon his retirement in May 2025, Gene Frenette leaves
17 a lasting legacy of excellence in journalism and dedicated public
18 service, having earned a permanent and cherished place in the fabric
19 of Jacksonville's sports history and setting a benchmark for future
20 generations; now therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City Council honors and commends Gene
23 Frenette for his 44 years of distinguished local journalism. The City
24 Council expresses its deepest appreciation for Mr. Frenette's decades
25 of dedicated service, recognizing the positive and lasting influence
26 his work has had on Jacksonville's sports community and civic life.

27 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
28 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
29 without the Mayor's signature.
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Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, Executive Council Assistant

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