

1 Introduced by Council Member Miller and Co-Sponsored by Council Member
2 Pittman:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2026-410-A**

6 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF JULY 2026 AS
7 FRENCH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN JACKSONVILLE;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, French influence on American culture goes back hundreds
11 of years to the landing of a French expeditionary force under the
12 command of Jean Ribault at the mouth of what is now the St. Johns
13 River in May of 1562, followed by the founding of the settlement of
14 Fort Caroline, in what would become Jacksonville, Florida, under the
15 leadership of René Goulaine de Laudonnière in June of 1564; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the influence of France on American laws, political
17 thought, art, culture, language, and social etiquette has been
18 considerable throughout the centuries because of the close ties
19 between the two nations, a connection forged when France was the
20 greatest ally and partner of the American colonies in their fight for
21 independence; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in the United States, July is designated as National
23 French American Heritage Month which was established to honor the
24 significant contributions made to this country by people of French
25 descent, and approximately 9.5 million Americans of French or French-
26 Canadian descent live and work in the United States, with about 1.4
27 million of those speaking French at home and an additional 750,000
28 speaking a French-based Creole language; and

29 **WHEREAS**, pockets of strong French influence still exist in
30 several parts of the United States, including the state of Maine,
31 with the largest proportion of people identifying as having French

1 ancestry, and the state of Louisiana, which boasts the largest French-
2 speaking population by percentage; and

3 **WHEREAS**, from the early explorations along the St. Johns River
4 to the present day, French contributions to American cuisine, fashion,
5 the arts, and business have left an indelible mark on American
6 society; now therefore

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

8 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the month of
9 July 2026 as French American Heritage Month in Jacksonville and urges
10 all residents to spend time learning about and celebrating the
11 tremendous influence the French have had on life in America.

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/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

19 Office of General Counsel

20 Legislation Prepared By: Steven Libby, City Council Research

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