

1 Introduced by Council Member Peluso:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-648**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND
6 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RITA F. REAGAN; PROVIDING AN
7 EFFECTIVE DATE.
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9 **WHEREAS,** Rita Reagan was born on July 24, 1940, in Cynthiana,
10 Kentucky, and she grew up helping her family on their tobacco farm;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan graduated from Eastern Kentucky
13 University with a bachelor's degree in education, earned her master's
14 degree from the University of North Florida and a specialist degree
15 from the University of Florida; and

16 **WHEREAS,** Rita and Harry Reagan were married in 1962 after a
17 whirlwind courtship. They moved to Jacksonville in 1967, where
18 together they raised their daughters Danielle and Denise; and

19 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was a dedicated educator and worked as an
20 English teacher in Duval County Public Schools for 30 years, teaching
21 at John Gorrie Junior High School, Raines High School and the former
22 Lee High School, now known as Westside High. She also started the
23 first peer counseling program in Duval County and served several
24 years as the district's student activities director; and

25 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was a historical preservationist who
26 fought for more than 25 years to make the Norman Studios silent film
27 campus a museum and to spread awareness of its unique place in
28 history. She served for several years as Norman Studios Silent Film
29 Museum board chairman and the fruits of her labor were recently
30 realized when the museum on the site reopened in August after years
31 of renovations; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was an urban pioneer who made Springfield
2 her home for 25 years. She was the volunteer head of Springfield
3 Preservation and Revitalization and responsible for getting the
4 donation of the organization's headquarters building on Main Street,
5 and she almost singlehandedly saved the Klutho apartments on Main
6 Street from destruction; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Mrs. Reagan was known to be full of energy and
8 passionate about her causes. She was an amazing wife, mother,
9 grandmother, and community activist who made a permanent impact on
10 Jacksonville. Rita will be missed by her husband, Harry Reagan,
11 daughters Danielle Reagan Wampler and Denise Reagan, grandchildren
12 Carson Wampler, Conner Wampler and Reagan Hoogesteger, sisters
13 Jeanette Smiley and Tracy Whirls and brother Mac Jones, her neighbors,
14 her friends, and all who had the pleasure to know her; now therefore

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

16 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the life
17 and accomplishments of Rita F. Reagan. Mrs. Reagan was an intrepid
18 force for good throughout our community and her legacy will serve as
19 an inspiration to others in our city. Jacksonville City Council
20 extends condolences to the Reagan family upon her passing, with the
21 hope that her memory will provide comfort to those grieving her
22 loss.

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

26 Form Approved:

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28 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

29 Office of General Counsel

30 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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