

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro and Howland and Co-Sponsored by
2 Council Members Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-
3 Murray, Diamond, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Johnson, Lahnen, Miller,
4 Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended on the Floor of Council:
5
6

7 **RESOLUTION 2026-549-A**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MOURNING THE
9 PASSING OF COLONEL FRANCIS "LEN" LOVING, USMC
10 (RET); REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE UPON
11 INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, born July 20, 1938, in Richmond, Virginia, Francis
14 Leonard Loving, the eldest of his siblings, attended Cathedral High
15 School in Richmond, where he was a standout athlete and earned a
16 scholarship to Southern Benedictine College in Cullman, Alabama; and

17 **WHEREAS**, "Len" Loving graduated from Southern Benedictine
18 College in 1960 as president of the student council and Magna Cum
19 Laude, with a degree in Business Administration; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after graduation, Len Loving was commissioned a Second
21 Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, the beginning of a long
22 and distinguished military career; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Len Loving served multiple tours in Vietnam,
24 was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" for valor, Combat Action
25 Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with two bronze stars, Meritorious
26 Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation,
27 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, and the
28 Humanitarian Service Medal; and

29 **WHEREAS**, during his service, Colonel Len Loving was detailed to
30 the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee to help organize and stage the
31 inauguration of President Ronald Reagan, and he was instrumental in

1 establishing the United States Marine Corps Blount Island Command;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, after retiring from the US Marine Corps in 1989, Colonel
4 Len Loving served as a project manager for Morales & Shumer Engineers,
5 head of security for high-profile athletes during the 1992 Olympic
6 Games, and with the Florida State Comptroller's office; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, Colonel Len Loving embarked upon another
8 chapter of service in the Jacksonville community, as the Chief
9 Executive Officer of the Five STAR Veterans Center, where he
10 demonstrated his dedication to helping homeless veterans, and in
11 recognition of his positive impact on veterans and their families he
12 was inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2017; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Len Loving was a loving husband and father, a
14 friend and mentor, he was a veteran and patriot, and a natural leader
15 who consistently exhibited grace and determination in the face of
16 adversity; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on June 9, 2026, Colonel Francis Leonard "Len" Loving
18 passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family at home at the age
19 of 87, following a courageous battle with cancer; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors the life and
22 mourns the passing of Colonel Francis Leonard "Len" Loving. Colonel
23 Loving was a hero and true public servant, an advocate for veterans,
24 and a respected leader. The City Council extends condolences to the
25 Loving family and friends, upon his passing.

26 **Section 2. Requesting Emergency Passage Upon Introduction**
27 **Pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
28 introduction of this Resolution is requested. The nature of the
29 emergency is to timely convey condolences to the Loving family.

30 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
31 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective

without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

GC-#1761539-v1-2026-549-A.docx