

1 Introduced by Council Members Amaro, Miller, Pittman, Johnson, Salem,
2 Lahnen, Gay, Howland and Freeman and Co-Sponsored by Council Member
3 Boylan:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2025-850-A**

7 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING COLONEL LEN LOVING, USMC
8 RET) FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND OUR
9 VETERANS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
10

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

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

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

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

31 **WHEREAS**, the Five Star Veterans Center assists veterans

1 experiencing homelessness, providing dignified housing, mental health
2 resources, job placement, assistance obtaining VA benefits, and
3 transportation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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