

1 Introduced by Council Members Carlucci, Amaro, Salem, J. Carlucci,
2 and Pittman and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Miller and Boylan:

3
4 **RESOLUTION 2026-196-A**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE,
6 PUBLIC SERVICE, AND LEGACY OF MARK MIDDLEBROOK,
7 RECOGNIZING HIS LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO
8 ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, COMMUNITY ADVOCACY,
9 AND PUBLIC SERVICE, AND EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE
10 AND APPRECIATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
11 OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, FOR HIS SERVICE AND
12 IMPACT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Mark Middlebrook was a dedicated resident of
15 Jacksonville, Florida, whose life reflected the values of persistence
16 and purpose, and whose career demonstrated a deep respect for the
17 people and places that shaped him; and

18 **WHEREAS,** Mark Middlebrook devoted his life to Jacksonville,
19 answering the call of public service with a steady commitment to
20 neighborhood advocacy and the protection of the city's natural
21 landscapes; and

22 **WHEREAS,** before serving in municipal leadership, Mark
23 Middlebrook established himself as a keen observer and distinct voice
24 in local media, serving as a writer and editor for the *Florida Times*
25 *Union* where he championed investigative reporting and the unique
26 cultural identity of Northeast Florida; and

27 **WHEREAS,** Mark Middlebrook served the public through his roles
28 in the administration of Mayor John Delaney, where he acted as a
29 primary architect of the Preservation Project Jacksonville, a
30 landmark initiative that resulted in the acquisition and protection
31 of more than 50,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Mark Middlebrook's leadership ensured the creation of
2 one of the largest urban park systems in the United States,
3 transitioning the city's focus from mere land acquisition to
4 meaningful public access, thereby connecting residents to the
5 Timucuan Preserve and the St. Johns River; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Mark Middlebrook later served as the Executive Director
7 of the Timucuan Parks Foundation, where he fostered vital partnerships
8 between the National Park Service, Florida State Parks, and the City
9 of Jacksonville to maintain and promote the city's vast preserve
10 system; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his professional achievements, Mark
12 Middlebrook mentored local writers and remained a vocal advocate for
13 the historic preservation of Jacksonville's urban core, leaving an
14 impact that will extend across generations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the legacy of Mark Middlebrook is centered by his role
16 as a faithful husband and a loving father, whose devotion to his
17 family served as the foundation and primary inspiration for his
18 lifelong commitment to public service and community advocacy; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville City Council desires to formally honor
20 and celebrate the life, service, and legacy of Mark Middlebrook, and
21 to express its deep appreciation to his loved ones and all those who
22 carry forward the values he championed; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and remembers the
25 life and public service of Mark Middlebrook and recognizes his lasting
26 contributions to Jacksonville and to the State of Florida. The City
27 Council recognizes Mark Middlebrook as a leader whose public work
28 reflected commitment to conservation and civic responsibility, and
29 whose legacy remains present in the preserved lands he secured and
30 the communities he served.

31 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become

1 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
2 without the Mayor's signature.

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4 Form Approved:

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6 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

7 Office of General Counsel

8 Legislation Prepared By: Cory Armstrong, Executive Council Assistant

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