

1 Introduced by Council Member Bowman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-56**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING U.S. NAVY
6 CAPTAIN MATT SCHELLHORN ON 44 YEARS OF
7 OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE UNITED
8 STATES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT;
9 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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11 **WHEREAS**, Matthew E. Schellhorn, a native of Westbury, New York
12 and the son of Charles and Mae Schellhorn, was commissioned an ensign
13 in the U.S. Navy through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps and
14 was designated a naval aviator in 1980, flying SH-2F Sea Sprite
15 helicopters with the HSL-32 "Invaders"; and

16 **WHEREAS**, while serving as officer-in-charge of Detachment Three
17 of HSL-32 in 1987, he survived the harrowing Iraqi missile strike on
18 the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf that killed 37 servicemen and led
19 rescue operations that saved the ship and prevented additional loss
20 of life. In 1991 he was named Pilot of the Year while serving with
21 the HSL-34 "Greencheckers"; and

22 **WHEREAS**, transitioning from his flying career, Captain
23 Schellhorn undertook a series of increasingly responsible
24 assignments, including serving the Secretary of the Navy as the
25 director of the White House Liaison Office, as Executive Officer and
26 later Commanding Officer ("CO") of the HSL-42 "Proud Warriors", and
27 as deputy of the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Deployable Training Team
28 before assuming command of Naval Station Mayport in 2001; and

29 **WHEREAS**, following his tour as CO of Mayport, Captain Schellhorn
30 remained in Jacksonville, first as Operations Support Program
31 director on the staff of Commander, Navy Region Southeast, and then

1 as Chief of Staff for Navy Region Southeast. For the past decade he
2 has been a County Planning Liaison Officer, fostering connections and
3 cooperation between the Navy, local governments, and other agencies
4 and interested parties in Northeast Florida. He has been particularly
5 instrumental in assisting the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs
6 and Veterans Department with using federal and state funds to purchase
7 development rights to sensitive lands from willing owners to protect
8 local military installations from incompatible encroachment. Nearly
9 1,700 acres have been purchased in this way to protect the ability
10 of NAS Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport and Whitehouse Naval
11 Outlying Field to continue performing their vital missions without
12 interference that would compromise their effectiveness; and

13 **WHEREAS,** after 44 years of dedicated service to our nation in
14 the U.S. Navy, nearly two decades of which was served in Jacksonville,
15 Captain Schellhorn has announced his retirement; now therefore

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

17 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
18 Captain Matt Schellhorn on the occasion of his retirement from the
19 United States Navy and extends the gratitude of the City and the
20 citizens of Jacksonville for his service to our country and our local
21 community. His 44-year career exemplifies dedication and selfless
22 service to others, and the City Council extends its best wishes for
23 many years of health and happiness in retirement.

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

1 Form Approved:

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3 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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