

1 Introduced by Council Member Bowman and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Morgan, Diamond, Ferraro, Newby, Becton, Howland and White:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2023-56-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING U.S. NAVY  
7 CAPTAIN MATT SCHELLHORN ON 44 YEARS OF  
8 OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE UNITED  
9 STATES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT;  
10 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Matthew E. Schellhorn, a native of Westbury, New York  
13 and the son of Charles and Mae Schellhorn, was commissioned an ensign  
14 in the U.S. Navy through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps and  
15 was designated a naval aviator in 1980, flying SH-2F Sea Sprite  
16 helicopters with the HSL-32 "Invaders"; and

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

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

30 **WHEREAS**, following his tour as CO of Mayport, Captain Schellhorn  
31 remained in Jacksonville, first as Operations Support Program

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

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

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

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

25 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become  
26 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective  
27 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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