

1 Introduced by Council Member Gay and Co-Sponsored by Council Members
2 Howland, Freeman, Carlucci, White, Clark-Murray and Miller:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-561-A**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING J.D. THOMPSON FOR HIS
7 HEROIC RESCUE OF LINEMAN RANDALL CHAMPION ON
8 JULY 17, 1967; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, on July 17, 1967, Jacksonville City Electric (now
11 JEA) linemen J.D. Thompson and Randall Champion were working on
12 utility poles on West 26th Street; and

13 **WHEREAS**, suddenly, Mr. Champion accidentally contacted one of
14 the power lines and absorbed more than 2,400 volts of electricity,
15 rendering him unconscious and suspended by his safety harness more
16 than 20 feet off the ground; and

17 **WHEREAS**, without pause, J.D. Thompson descended the pole he
18 was working on a few hundred feet away and charged towards Mr.
19 Champion's pole, ascending rapidly in an effort to save his friend;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, J.D. Thompson administered mouth-to-mouth
22 resuscitation, desperately trying to breathe life back into Randall
23 Champion. When he felt a pulse, he unhooked Mr. Champion's harness
24 and helped lower him safely to the ground; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the heroic rescue was captured by local journalist
26 Rocco Morabito in the Pulitzer Prize winning "The Kiss of Life"
27 photograph, which appeared in newspapers around the world; and

28 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the incident, JEA implemented
29 "horizontal hurtman training" for new linemen to prepare them to
30 respond quickly when such an emergency occurs again; now therefore

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

1 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends J.D.
2 Thompson for his heroic rescue of fellow lineman Randall Champion.
3 Because of Mr. Thompson's brave action, Mr. Champion survived, was
4 able to return to work as a lineman and was later promoted to
5 troubleshooter as a result of the rescue.

6 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
7 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
8 without the Mayor's signature.

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10 Form Approved:

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12 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

13 Office of General Counsel

14 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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