

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2022-738**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING GEORGE
6 BANKS ON HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF
7 INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND FELLOWSHIP;
8 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, George Banks, a U.S. Navy veteran, has had a long and
11 distinguished career as a broadcast journalist, first as an award-
12 winning television reporter in Syracuse, New York and Springfield,
13 Massachusetts, later in Jacksonville producing and hosting a program
14 on international issues for 20 years on Comcast cable television, and
15 most recently hosting a weekly classical music radio program on
16 Flagler College Radio; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Banks served a term on the Jacksonville City Council
18 in the late 1990s representing Council District 5, and was twice
19 honored with the Charles Webb Award (once individually and once as a
20 member of the Council as a Whole) by the Council President as the
21 most effective council member; and

22 **WHEREAS**, following his Council service, George Banks was named
23 as the City of Jacksonville's first and only International Director,
24 leading the City's efforts in the area of international relations
25 both domestically and abroad; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in that role he participated in the creation of the
27 Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board and the Mayor's Asian
28 American Advisory Board; and

29 **WHEREAS**, he facilitated the activities of numerous
30 international delegations visiting Jacksonville and worked with the
31 Sister Cities organization and other agencies promoting international

1 relations to send Jacksonville delegations abroad; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in his role as International Director for the City he
3 participated in numerous city and state international cultural and
4 trade missions to destinations ranging from Seoul and Masan, South
5 Korea to Santiago, Chile and from Beijing, China to Sao Paolo, Brazil,
6 carrying the message of Jacksonville's readiness to participate in
7 the international economy and to share educational, cultural, and
8 tourism links with countries and peoples around the world; and

9 **WHEREAS**, George Banks has been honored in both of his careers,
10 having been a recipient of the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award
11 for a victims rights documentary he produced and two Best Reporting
12 awards from the Syracuse Press Club, and being awarded the Hy Kliman
13 Global Connectivity Award by the Florida Coastal School of Law for
14 his many international activities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Banks, a longtime supporter of the American Legion,
16 the Greater Jacksonville Area USO, and the Jacksonville Symphony, is
17 still actively involved in the promotion and facilitation of
18 international activities and relations through his consulting
19 business - The Facilitators, Inc.; now therefore

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

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends
22 former City Council Member George Banks for his decades of dedicated
23 and effective service in the cause of promoting, encouraging, and
24 facilitating Jacksonville's involvement in international relations
25 around the world as a means of promoting greater understanding among
26 peoples and of helping to give Jacksonville a presence on the
27 international stage. His trips around the world representing
28 Jacksonville and his hosting and facilitation of scores of
29 international delegations visiting our city have made connections and
30 established friendships that continue to stand the city in good stead
31 as a player on the international stage. The City Council expresses

1 its gratitude for all his hard work over the course of several decades
2 and extends its best wishes for continued health, happiness, and
3 productivity in the years to come.

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

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8 Form Approved:

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10 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

11 Office of General Counsel

12 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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