

1 Introduced by Council Member Carlucci and Co-sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Becton, Morgan, Boylan, Newby and Carrico:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2022-738-A**

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

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

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

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

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

30 **WHEREAS**, he facilitated the activities of numerous  
31 international delegations visiting Jacksonville and worked with the

1 Sister Cities organization and other agencies promoting international  
2 relations to send Jacksonville delegations abroad; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 as a player on the international stage. The City Council expresses  
2 its gratitude for all his hard work over the course of several decades  
3 and extends its best wishes for continued health, happiness, and  
4 productivity in the years to come.

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

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9 Form Approved:

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11           /s/ Paige H. Johnston          

12 Office of General Counsel

13 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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