

1 Introduced by Council Members Lahnen, Gaffney Jr., Salem, Arias,
2 Diamond, White, Gay, Carlucci, Howland, Peluso, Amaro, Johnson,
3 Pittman, Miller and Freeman:
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6 **RESOLUTION 2024-261**

7 A RESOLUTION DECLARING JACKSONVILLE TO BE A
8 PURPLE HEART CITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville has a long and proud history
11 of supporting our active military and veteran population; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart Medal is the oldest military
13 decoration in current use, and was initially created as a Badge of
14 Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart Medal was the first award made
16 available to the common soldier, and is specifically awarded to
17 members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded in
18 combat or have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms by being
19 killed in action against a declared enemy of the United States of
20 America; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart
22 is to foster an environment of goodwill among combat-wounded veterans
23 and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative
24 initiatives affecting the well-being of veterans, and most
25 importantly, to ensure that we never forget the sacrifices of our
26 military service men and women; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville strives to be one of the most military-
28 friendly cities in America and has a very large military and veteran
29 population with many of its veterans being Purple Heart recipients;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville annually recognizes its Purple Heart

1 recipients in a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Wall in the Sports
2 Complex, after which honorees and other attendees are invited to walk
3 the Purple Heart Trail from the Memorial Wall to the Purple Heart
4 Memorial adjacent to the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena; and

5 **WHEREAS,** the City of Jacksonville appreciates its military
6 veterans, combat veterans, Purple Heart recipients, and their
7 families for the sacrifices they have made in defending our freedoms
8 and wishes to honor them appropriately; now therefore

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

10 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby declares the City of
11 Jacksonville to be a Purple Heart City and encourages the residents
12 and businesses of Jacksonville to show their appreciation for the
13 sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our
14 freedoms, to acknowledge their courage and service, and to show them
15 the honor and support they have earned.

16 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
17 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
18 without the Mayor's signature.

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20 Form Approved:

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22 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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