

1 Introduced by Council Members Dennis, Gaffney, Morgan, Wilson,  
2 White, Salem, Newby, Diamond, DeFoor, Hazouri, Becton, Bowman,  
3 Freeman, Priestly Jackson, Carlucci, Cumber, Ferraro, Pittman, and  
4 Boylan:

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7 **RESOLUTION 2020-85**

8 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE  
9 LIFE AND OUTSTANDING CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
10 FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND MAYOR JAKE M.  
11 GODBOLD; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, lifelong Jacksonville resident Jake Godbold was  
14 raised in very humble circumstances in public housing in  
15 Jacksonville's Brentwood neighborhood, graduated from Andrew  
16 Jackson High School, served in the U.S. Army, sold insurance door-  
17 to-door, and for many years owned a janitorial supply company. As a  
18 civic-minded activist he was President of the Jaycees, President of  
19 Big Brothers and the Boys Club, and Chairman of the Muscular  
20 Dystrophy campaign; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Godbold, who was always a civic booster and  
22 believed in the power of the city government to improve the lives  
23 of the average citizen, was elected to the first Consolidated City  
24 of Jacksonville City Council in 1967 and re-elected in 1971 and  
25 1975. He was elected Council President by his peers in 1978 and  
26 held that position when then-Mayor Hans Tanzler resigned from  
27 office to become a candidate for Governor, whereupon, by virtue of  
28 the City Charter, he became Mayor; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Godbold's two terms in office were  
30 characterized by boundless boosterism and an unflagging  
31 determination to raise Jacksonville's stature and put his home town

1 on the map as a great city. He presided over a "billion dollar  
2 decade" in which the city built the Southbank Riverwalk, converted  
3 Jacksonville's former rail terminal into the Prime Osborn  
4 Convention Center, and constructed the Jacksonville Landing while  
5 numerous private businesses relocated to Jacksonville and built  
6 their own buildings throughout the city; and

7 **WHEREAS**, one of the signature accomplishments of his term in  
8 office was the night in 1979 when "Colts Fever" brought 55,000  
9 football fans to the Gator Bowl to greet then-Baltimore Colts owner  
10 Robert Irsay in a show of Jacksonville's passion to acquire an NFL  
11 team, a dream that was realized more than a decade later with the  
12 decision by the NFL to award the city the Jacksonville Jaguars as  
13 an expansion franchise; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Jake Godbold was, first and foremost, a man of and  
15 for the common people, who represented their best interests in City  
16 Hall and beyond. He was fearless in speaking his mind on any and  
17 all subjects, regardless of the potential risks, and came out of  
18 controversies stronger than ever because of his reputation for  
19 absolute honesty and forthrightness. In the decades since he left  
20 office his counsel was sought by countless political and business  
21 leaders, and his friendship and helpful concern was enjoyed by tens  
22 of thousands of his friends and former constituents; now therefore

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

24 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors and  
25 commemorates the life and outstanding civic accomplishments of  
26 former City Council member, City Council President and Mayor Jake  
27 Godbold. His love for the City and the citizens of Jacksonville was  
28 unparalleled, and he was truly one of the giant figures in  
29 Jacksonville's history. His legacy will be long and gratefully  
30 remembered by generations of Jacksonville citizens, and the City  
31 Council extends to his family and countless friends and admirers

1 its sincere condolences.

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

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6 Form Approved:

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8     /s/ *Margaret M. Sidman*

9 Office of General Counsel

10 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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