

1 Introduced by Council Member Dennis & Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Salem, Ferraro, Priestly Jackson, Carlucci, DeFoor, Newby,  
3 Pittman, Boylan, Morgan, White, and Bowman:  
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6 **RESOLUTION 2020-532-A**

7 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFETIME OF SERVICE  
8 AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF LIEUTENANT  
9 CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM SR; PROVIDING  
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Christopher Michael Cunningham was born November 23,  
13 1971, in Lincolnton, Georgia, the son of Carrie Lou and the late  
14 Zelma Cunningham, and the youngest of three siblings; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Chris Cunningham was a Navy Veteran, deployed on the  
16 USS George Washington in 1994, and received countless Navy  
17 achievement honors and medals including the Southwest Asia Service  
18 Medal recognizing his exemplary service. Chris Cunningham was then  
19 stationed at NAS Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida, and when his  
20 Navy term ended in 1998 he transferred to the Naval Reserve where  
21 he remained on active call; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Lt. Chris Cunningham Sr. revered his family, and was  
23 joined in loving matrimony to Gwendolyn L. Prince-Cunningham in  
24 2011. Family was the foundation of his life, and he treasured his  
25 time with his wife, sons, step-children, granddaughters, as well as  
26 numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, his Navy family,  
27 his JSO family and closest friends; and

28 **WHEREAS**, after his discharge from the Navy, Lt. Chris  
29 Cunningham Sr. graduated from Columbia College with a degree in  
30 Criminal Justice, and served the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for  
31 22 years, and was promoted through the ranks achieving his

1 Lieutenant leadership over the Crime Scene Unit. At work Lt.  
2 Cunningham was known to be a man of compassion, with high  
3 expectations from his officers but who never asked more of them  
4 than he himself gave. He was known to treat the officers under his  
5 command as family, he also loved dancing and his kind nature kept  
6 his colleagues in his office smiling despite the frequent stress of  
7 the job; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Lt. Cunningham was a man of unwavering Christian  
9 faith, and was a full member of the African Methodist Episcopal  
10 Church, and worshipped each Sunday with his family at the St. Paul  
11 AME Church in Jacksonville; and

12 **WHEREAS**, on August 5, 2020 Lt. Chris Cunningham Sr. passed  
13 away too soon, following complications from a COVID-19 related  
14 illness. Lt. Cunningham's passing was mourned and his life  
15 celebrated by hundreds of family, friends, colleagues and  
16 strangers, because while his death was unexpectedly tragic, the way  
17 he lived his life stands as an inspiration to all. Lt. Chris  
18 Cunningham was a son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather; he  
19 was a devoted man of faith and a genuine public servant; now  
20 therefore

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

22 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby honors the  
23 life and service of Lt. Christopher Cunningham Sr., who loved his  
24 family, colleagues and community, and dedicated more than two  
25 decades of his life to the Sheriff's Office and to protecting  
26 public safety in our city. Jacksonville City Council mourns Lt.  
27 Cunningham's untimely passing and extends condolences to his family  
28 and friends.

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

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Form Approved:

/s/ Paige H. Johnston

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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