

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: JEA is the eighth largest municipal utility in the United States, serving an estimated 455,000 electric, 337,000 water and 261,000 sewer customers; and

WHEREAS: JEA is committed to ensuring the safety of its employees, contractors, customers, and the communities it serves, and recognizes that successful safety performance requires individual involvement and teamwork; and

WHEREAS: On July 17, 1967, R.G. Champion, a JEA line maintenance worker, made contact with a 4,160-volt line while on the job. His fellow lineman, J.D. Thompson, immediately began resuscitation efforts while the two dangled from their safety harnesses on the utility pole; and

WHEREAS: At that moment, "Jacksonville Journal" photographer Rocco Morabito happened upon the scene and used his car radio to call for an ambulance before beginning to take photographs; and

WHEREAS: The now-famous photo, dubbed "The Kiss of Life," ran on the front page of the "Jacksonville Journal" on July 18, 1967. It was soon seen around the world and earned Morabito a Pulitzer Prize for spot news photography in 1968; and

WHEREAS: J.D. Thompson was honored as a hero for the successful resuscitation. Both men continued to work at JEA until their retirements; and

WHEREAS: The iconic photo continues to shine a positive light on JEA and Jacksonville.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do honor July 18, 2017 as

"KISS OF LIFE" PHOTO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

in Jacksonville and express our deep appreciation to JEA and all employees past and present for their continued commitment to safety and reliable service to our community.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 17 day of July
in the year Two Thousand 17

Lenny Curry
MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA