

WHEREAS, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners wishes to recognize and honor the service of Naval Air Station Jacksonville Commanding Officer, Captain Marcos Cantu; and

WHEREAS, Captain Cantu, commissioned at Texas A&M University in 1997, was designated as a naval aviator in 1999. He completed deployments aboard USS O'Bannon in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific; USS DeWert in support of 6th Fleet and Standing Naval Forces, Atlantic; USS Kearsarge in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and USS Vella Gulf deployed to the European Command area of responsibility as part of the first east coast ballistic missile defense deployment; and

WHEREAS, Captain Cantu is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College where he earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies and served as the U.S. Strategic Command, Joint Functional Component Command-Global Strike deputy division chief for nuclear strike planning, and was selected to establish Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 79 at Naval Air Station North Island, California, as its first commanding officer; and

WHEREAS, Captain Cantu has flown over 2,200 flight hours and received multiple awards and medals during his Naval career including two Legion of Merit Awards, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and an Air Medal; and

WHEREAS, Captain Cantu assumed the duties of executive officer for Naval Air Station Jacksonville in April 2021, and, in August 2022, became the 51st commanding officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the third largest Navy base in the U.S. and home to more than 20,000 personnel. Naval Air Station Jacksonville, an economic powerhouse in our region, supports U.S. forces specializing in anti-submarine warfare and trains the best aviators in the world.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida, does hereby express its sincere gratitude and honors the outstanding service of

CAPTAIN MARCOS CANTU

for his many years of dedicated service to our country and the valued partnership between NAS Jacksonville and Clay County under his leadership.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida this 13th day of February 2024.

ATTEST:

Tara S. Green
Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Ex Officio Clerk of the Board

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