

RESOLUTION
NO. 2023-024

A RESOLUTION
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PENSACOLA; HONORING THE LIFE, CIVIC
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PHILANTHROPY OF LEWIS BEAR
JR.; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Lewis Bear Jr. was born on February 10, 1941 to Lewis Bear, Sr. and Peggy Loeb Bear; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bear passed away on March 3, 2023 surrounded by his loving family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bear was a lifelong resident of Pensacola, Florida, and served as President and CEO of The Lewis Bear Company, the oldest continuously family-owned Anheuser Busch wholesale distributor in the world and the oldest privately held corporation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bear was deeply committed to Pensacola, Escambia County, and Northwest Florida, serving as Board Chairman for the Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission (PEDC), Chairman of Florida West, Vice-chairman of Triumph Gulf Coast, trustee on the University of West Florida's (UWF) Board of Trustees, a founding member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida, Chairman of Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the United Way of Escambia County, Chairman of the Pensacola Museum of Art, trustee for the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, and a sustaining and executive committee member of Florida's Great Northwest (16 county economic development organization) just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bear's philanthropic endeavors benefited more than just Pensacola, more so the entire region, establishing endowments such as the Bear Family Foundation, the Lewis and Belle Bear Facilities Endowment Fund at Temple Beth-El, the Lewis Bear Company Endowment for Excellence in Business Education at UWF, the Bear-Bonner Endowment Fund at Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, also creating scholarships at both Pensacola State College and UWF, this list only scratching the surface of Mr. Bear's contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bear's political acumen garnered immense respect in the Florida Capitol, being on a first-name basis with each of the state's past four governors while carrying influence and respect across the state, this influence was used not for personal gain, but rather for the benefit of Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of Mr. Bear's contributions, civic engagement and philanthropy throughout Pensacola, Escambia County and Northwest Florida are immeasurable and invaluable

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. In light of Lewis Bear Jr.'s lifelong commitment to Pensacola, Escambia County and Northwest Florida, the City Council hereby honors the passing of Mr. Bear with reverence and gratitude.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk