

Resolution

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to honor the exceptional life and legacy of Craig Sumner, a distinguished figure in the space industry whose national and local involvement has significantly impacted Huntsville and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Craig Edmund Sumner was born on June 21st, 1949, in Long Beach, California, and throughout his life, he lived in various places, graduating from high school in Pensacola, Florida, attending and graduating from Pensacola Junior College, and finally, graduating from the University of West Florida with a degree in Engineering, eventually settling in Huntsville for a lifelong career in space exploration; and

WHEREAS, Craig's distinguished career in the space industry began in 1969 as a college intern with the Apollo program, working on the design and build of the Lunar Roving Vehicle and training the Apollo astronauts to drive the vehicle on the moon's surface; and

WHEREAS, Craig was drafted into the Vietnam War, where he committedly served in the United States Air Force, eventually flying C-130s before being honorably discharged in 1976 as a Captain. After his time of service, he returned to Huntsville and NASA, working payloads and other pieces of the Space Shuttle program before retiring from NASA in 1997 as Deputy Project Manager for the Space Shuttle External Tank; and

WHEREAS, after NASA, he worked for the United Space Alliance and was the Chief Engineer of Space Shuttle Propulsion when he retired along with the Space Shuttle Program in 2011, and after this retirement, he was asked to work for Boeing as a Subject Matter Expert on the Thermal Protection System for the Core Stage of SLS/Artemis, retiring for good in 2024; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his influence in the space industry, Craig left a positive impact in the Huntsville community, volunteering and in various capacities through leading, supporting, and instructing Equestrian Special Olympics events for 25 years; serving as Board President for Huntsville's First Stop Organization, which assists the unhoused individuals of Huntsville, offering meals, supplies, on-site case management, mental health services, a medical clinic, and housing assistance; and volunteering his time and knowledge with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center as a docent, interacting with guests, sharing stories, and answering questions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his NASA career, faithful service to his country, and remarkable volunteerism, Craig was a devoted husband to his supportive wife, Linda, of 52 years and loving father to two children, Aaron and Carrie, and grandfather to three grandchildren, Savannah, Pippa, and Autumn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby recognize and celebrate the extraordinary life, service, and legacy of Craig Edmund Sumner, whose remarkable contributions to the advancement of space exploration and his unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Huntsville community have left an enduring impact. May his dedication to his profession, country, and

family serves as an inspiration to all, ensuring he will be remembered with great respect, gratitude, and admiration by the residents of Huntsville for generations to come.

ADOPTED and **PRESENTED** on this the 9th day of **July, 2026**.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama