

By Senator Silver

38-1832-98

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution in recognition of Congregation
Beth David, Miami's original Jewish
congregation, on its 85th anniversary.

WHEREAS, long before the hundreds of thousands of Jews
who now live in South Florida moved to this state and created
a presence as one of America's largest Jewish communities,
Congregation Beth David existed, and

WHEREAS, a spiritual home to more than 70 Key Biscayne
families, the congregation was founded in 1912 by a handful of
pioneers who came from Key West to live in the frontier town
of Miami, and

WHEREAS, religious services for the Beth David
congregation were originally held in private homes with laymen
officiating, and Beth David members established a Jewish
section at the City of Miami cemetery, and

WHEREAS, as the congregation grew, services took place
in public halls until 1916, when congregates purchased a
permanent home at N.E. 8th Street and 2nd Avenue in the heart
of town, and

WHEREAS, in 1949, the congregation moved to the
landmark classical sanctuary on Coral Way at S.W. 26 Road,
near Key Biscayne, and

WHEREAS, the temple has since grown to include a school
building, offices, a library, a ballroom, and a Judaica
museum, and

WHEREAS, Miami's pioneer synagogue commemorated its 85
years in Miami during Shabbat service on November 22, 1997,
and

1 WHEREAS, Congregation Beth David is proud of its
2 historical significance as Miami's pioneer Jewish congregation
3 and looks forward to continuing its role as the leading
4 congregation in the Miami community, NOW, THEREFORE,

5
6 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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8 That the Senate of the State of Florida hereby
9 recognizes Congregation Beth David, Miami's first Jewish
10 congregation, on its 85th anniversary.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
12 be presented to Rabbi David Oler of Congregation Beth David as
13 a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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