

By Senator Thomas

3-1904-98

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2 A resolution recognizing the life and courage  
3 of John Edward "Zeke" Bagley.

4  
5 WHEREAS, John Edward "Zeke" Bagley was a leader and a  
6 winner from early life; born September 25, 1923, in  
7 Cottondale, Florida, the son of George E. and Margaret Jarvis  
8 Bagley, he attended high school in Cottondale, where he was an  
9 excellent student, president of the student body, a member of  
10 the Beta Club and the Four-H Club, and salutatorian of his  
11 graduating class, and

12 WHEREAS, John entered the University of Florida on a  
13 full academic scholarship but, shortly after the bombing of  
14 Pearl Harbor, he left college to volunteer as an aviation  
15 cadet in the Army Air Corps and completed preflight training  
16 at Maxwell Training Center in Montgomery, Alabama and finished  
17 flight training as a navigator at the top of his class at  
18 Selman Field in Monroe, Louisiana, and

19 WHEREAS, after serving in the Mediterranean Theater for  
20 several months, he was transferred to England on special  
21 assignment for missions to support the Normandy invasion, and

22 WHEREAS, on June 7, 1944, he left England in a C-47  
23 aircraft on an exceedingly dangerous mission to deliver vital  
24 ammunition to allied troops who had managed to advance from  
25 the beach and were engaged in heavy combat, and, even though  
26 the mission was so dangerous that death was more than a  
27 possibility, he and the rest of the crew did their duty  
28 without flinching, and

29 WHEREAS, before they could deliver their cargo, the  
30 plane was hit several times by enemy fire and, after the pilot  
31 ditched the aircraft, most of the crew, although wounded, were

1 able to exit the ship; however, John lost his life that day,  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, after over 50 years, the people who had the  
4 privilege of knowing "Zeke" Bagley still remember the young  
5 man who was so gifted, so bright, so well-liked, and admired,  
6 who gave his all for his country, and it is only proper that  
7 this body recognize and remember his life and his courage,  
8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9  
10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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12 That the members of this body celebrate the life of  
13 John Edward "Zeke" Bagley and remember his ultimate sacrifice  
14 for his country.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
16 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be transmitted to the  
17 family of John Edward "Zeke" Bagley as a tangible token of the  
18 sentiments expressed herein.

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