

By Representative Clemons

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution honoring Tommy Thomas for a  
3 lifetime of contributions to Bay County, the  
4 State of Florida, and the United States of  
5 America.

6  
7 WHEREAS, Tommy Thomas, a true American patriot, as well  
8 as a community, business, and political leader in Bay County  
9 and the State of Florida, passed from this earth on September  
10 17, 1996, at the age of 71 years, and

11 WHEREAS, he demonstrated the very essence of the  
12 American dream through hard work, dedication, and caring,  
13 became a successful businessman as a result, and shared that  
14 dream with young and old alike, helping create opportunities  
15 for thousands of everyday people, and

16 WHEREAS, he shared not only his economic wealth, but a  
17 wealth of time, vision, and leadership to numerous charitable  
18 organizations, including the Salvation Army, the American Red  
19 Cross, and the Methodist Children's Home, and

20 WHEREAS, he demonstrated his lifelong love of country  
21 and patriotism by serving in the United States Marine Corps in  
22 World War II, during which he was shot down over Bougainville  
23 in the Solomon Islands on the first of two Pacific tours, and  
24 in the course of that service received six medals, including a  
25 Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross, and

26 WHEREAS, he was recognized by the Daughters of the  
27 American Revolution for promoting patriotism in the local  
28 schools, and he displayed that patriotism every day by flying  
29 Bay County's largest American flag over his business, and

30 WHEREAS, as a political leader, he served as the  
31 Republican State Chairman from 1970 to 1974, where he earned

1 the admiration, respect, and fear of state leaders, both  
2 Democrat and Republican alike, and

3 WHEREAS, his untiring devotion to democracy and public  
4 service was especially exemplified by the sharing of his vast  
5 knowledge of the political process with young people, and even  
6 on his last day of life, while ailing, he continued to share  
7 his wisdom and insight with a class of fourth graders, and

8 WHEREAS, while Tommy Thomas will always be remembered  
9 for success, patriotism, and service to others, he may best be  
10 remembered for a basic philosophy on life, said often, "Stand  
11 for something or you will fall for anything," NOW, THEREFORE,

12  
13 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
14 Florida:

15  
16 That the House of Representatives of the State of  
17 Florida hereby honors and commemorates the life and good works  
18 of Tommy Thomas, especially his patriotism, community service,  
19 and selfless devotion to the people of Bay County, the State  
20 of Florida, and the United States of America.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution  
22 be presented to his family as tangible tokens of the  
23 sentiments expressed herein.

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