

By Representative Safley

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Jack and Ruth Eckerd.

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4 WHEREAS, realizing that today's youth are tomorrow's
5 leaders and that their success depends upon the guidance and
6 opportunities provided during the critical years of childhood
7 and adolescence, the State of Florida recognizes the
8 continuing need to provide support and services to its youth
9 who are having difficulty adjusting to the increasing demands
10 of today's society, and

11 WHEREAS, in an effort to meet the ever-increasing needs
12 of Florida's children, youth, and young adults, Jack and Ruth
13 Eckerd were among the first to join in a public-private
14 partnership with the State of Florida and, through Eckerd
15 Youth Alternatives, Inc., have provided the means and
16 opportunities for Florida's troubled youth to resume a more
17 responsible, productive role in their families, schools, and
18 communities, and

19 WHEREAS, Jack and Ruth Eckerd understand that the
20 greatest impact of programs provided by Eckerd Youth
21 Alternatives, Inc., is obtained by addressing the needs of
22 youth as early as possible to prevent future delinquency,
23 substance abuse, and academic and emotional problems, and

24 WHEREAS, this public-private partnership, begun more
25 than 25 years ago with the unique agreement to provide
26 services to emotionally troubled youth, has expanded to
27 provide an even wider range of prevention and intervention
28 programs designed to meet the special needs of youth at risk,
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Jack and Ruth Eckerd's original concept, which
31 was brought to fruition in Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.,

1 has proved so successful that there are now 28 programs in
2 seven states which benefit over three thousand children,
3 youth, and young adults each year, and

4 WHEREAS, Jack and Ruth Eckerd are widely recognized as
5 leaders in services to youth at risk, achieving local, state,
6 and national acclaim through Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, founders Jack and Ruth Eckerd have given
9 selflessly of their time, talents, and personal resources to
10 ensure that youth are given an opportunity to reach their
11 fullest potential, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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16 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
17 deliberations to honor Jack and Ruth Eckerd for their selfless
18 devotion to the youth of Florida.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
20 be presented to Jack and Ruth Eckerd as a tangible token of
21 the sentiments expressed herein.

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