1 House Resolution 2 A resolution honoring the Manatee East Little 3 League 11-12-Year-Old All-Stars. 4 5 WHEREAS, a crowd of more than 600 fans and well-wishers 6 were on hand to welcome home 14 Bradenton boys who had 7 captured the nation's attention as they battled for the 1997 8 Little League national championship, and 9 WHEREAS, on July 15, 1997, the Manatee East Little League All-Stars, consisting of players Ryan Kennedy, Lastings 10 11 Milledge, Joel Coccoiolone, Michael Cucci, Josh Hall, Larry 12 Cobb, Rod Harper, Trevor Blair, Brandon Noel, Rocky Schwartz, 13 Kevin Owens, Jonathan Cassidy, Scottie Ellis, and Shawn 14 Sullivan, with their manager, Michael Kennedy, and Coaches Harold Floyd and Geary Hall, won the District 16 baseball 15 16 championship for 11-12 year olds in an 11-1 five-inning blowout against East Central Sarasota at Twin Lakes Park, and 17 18 WHEREAS, continuing a streak which would land them in 19 the national playoffs, on Saturday, July 19, the Manatee 20 "Beasts from the East" devoured the North Fort Myers American 21 team to become the Section 4 champions, and 22 WHEREAS, the Manatee East All-Stars won the state championship in the 11-12-year-old division when they bested 23 24 Fort Pierce Northside at Dade City Little League Complex, making it the second state Little League title in three years 25 26 for essentially the same group, their having won the prize as 27 9-10 year olds in 1995, and 28 WHEREAS, on August 14, the Manatee East All-Stars won 29 the Southeastern Regional Championship Game against College 30 Station, Texas, advancing the team to the Little League World Series, and

WHEREAS, at the United States Pool Championship Game of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the Manatee East Little League 11-12-Year-Old All-Stars finished their season as second in the nation and third in the world among the 8,500 participating teams, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the House of Representatives hereby congratulates the Manatee East Little League 11-12-Year-Old All-Stars champions for their outstanding 1997 season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to each member of the team, Manager Mike Kennedy, and Coaches Harold Floyd and Geary Hall as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.