

By Senator Kirkpatrick

5-1423-99

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

2 A resolution recognizing March 4, 1999 as  
3 Associations Advance Florida Day.

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5 WHEREAS, associations, originating with the guilds of  
6 medieval times, are one of the largest and most powerful  
7 forces in the United States today, yet are also among the  
8 least recognized, and9 WHEREAS, associations are simply groups of  
10 people--groups of people who find strength in numbers in  
11 sharing common interests of industries, professions,  
12 charities, hobbies, or philanthropy, and13 WHEREAS, associations are founded upon the principles  
14 of democracy, volunteerism, and common interest that are the  
15 heart of the American experience, and16 WHEREAS, associations by definition exist for the  
17 mutual protection and advancement of their members, and18 WHEREAS, associations are known by a host of names,  
19 including federations, alliances, institutes, guilds,  
20 societies, foundations, clubs, congresses, coalitions,  
21 centers, networks, chambers, bureaus, associations,  
22 fraternities, and sororities, and although they come by many  
23 names and in many sizes, they are all associations, sharing  
24 the twin goals of helping their members and advancing society,  
25 and26 WHEREAS, associations represent an enormous collective  
27 presence, their work is woven throughout the fabric of  
28 society, and the public has come to depend on the social and  
29 economic benefits that associations afford, and30 WHEREAS, were it not for associations, other  
31 institutions and the government would face added burdens in

1 the vital activities they perform in setting and enforcing  
2 product and safety standards, stimulating and organizing  
3 volunteerism, conducting industry research, disseminating  
4 valuable information, continuing education, ethics, political  
5 campaign funding and political education, and community  
6 service, and

7 WHEREAS, the estimate of the direct economic value of  
8 associations to the state is over \$1.2 billion each year,  
9 including transportation, payroll, printing, office supplies,  
10 rent, postage, lodging and facility accommodations, and  
11 educational programs, and

12 WHEREAS, the association community in Florida provides  
13 over 45,450 jobs, accommodates over 2 million meeting  
14 attendees, and spends \$122 million with hotels, and

15 WHEREAS, 70.8 percent of hotel meeting revenue in the  
16 state comes from associations, and

17 WHEREAS, associations hold 26,000 events in Florida  
18 annually, such as trade shows, committee and board meetings,  
19 and conventions and education programs, and,

20 WHEREAS, Florida associations pay more than \$77 million  
21 in taxes each year; and

22 WHEREAS, Florida associations' staff and members donate  
23 over 10 million hours of service to their associations and  
24 communities each year, NOW, THEREFORE,

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26 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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28 That the Florida Senate recognizes March 4, 1999 as  
29 Associations Advance Florida Day.

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