

By Senators Lee, Hargrett, Grant and Sebesta

23-2226-99

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution honoring Roland Manteiga and recognizing September 25, 1999, as "Roland Manteiga Day."

WHEREAS, Roland Marcelo Manteiga was born January 16, 1920, in Tampa, Florida, and

WHEREAS, Roland's father, Victoriano Manteiga, emigrated from Cuba in 1913 and began publishing a daily Spanish-language newspaper, La Gaceta, in Tampa in 1922, and

WHEREAS, young Roland learned journalism and publishing from the ground up, beginning by delivering La Gaceta on his bicycle, and later by mastering advertising, circulation, writing, and editing while in his teens, and

WHEREAS, Roland Manteiga took a more active role in La Gaceta after serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and

WHEREAS, La Gaceta became a weekly publication in 1953 and added Italian-language features in addition to its Spanish and English, making it the only such trilingual newspaper in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Roland Manteiga was committed to his political ideology, often opinionated, but never dull, and his column of political commentary and speculation "As We Heard It" was required reading for Tampa Bay-area politicians and journalists for over 44 years, and

WHEREAS, Roland Manteiga, a champion of the underdog and a secret benefactor to people in need, was a modest man, honored many times for his civic and journalistic accomplishments, and

1 WHEREAS, Roland Manteiga loved Ybor City and has been
2 recognized by community leaders as a gentleman devoted to his
3 community, who sought to make a difference by reporting its
4 history and celebrating its people, making them come alive for
5 posterity, and

6 WHEREAS, although Roland Manteiga departed this life
7 September 25, 1998, at the age of 78, his spirit lives on in
8 Ybor City, and his legacy shall live on in the community he
9 loved so much, and

10 WHEREAS, Roland Manteiga, pioneer journalist and
11 editor, historian and chronicler of the rich traditions of
12 Ybor City, a voice of conscience in the community, and a true
13 friend to the powerful and the powerless alike, was a man who
14 exemplified the virtues of hard work, insightful reporting,
15 dedication to his community, modesty, and humanitarianism, and

16 WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Roland Manteiga served as
17 owner and publisher of La Gaceta, a newspaper of unique
18 significance in our nation, which portrays the multicultural
19 diversity and spirit of our state and, through expressive and
20 informative writing, draws together into one community people
21 of many various backgrounds, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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25 That the Florida Senate pauses in its deliberations to
26 pay honor to the memory of Roland Manteiga and to recognize
27 Saturday, September 25, 1999, as "Roland Manteiga Day" in
28 Hillsborough County, Florida.

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