1 House Resolution 2 A resolution in recognition of Dr. Charles R. 3 Mathews. 4 WHEREAS, Charles R. Mathews was born on January 31, 5 6 1923, in Norman, Oklahoma, and 7 WHEREAS, Charles R. Mathews received his degree in 8 medicine from the University of Oklahoma and, following a distinguished medical career of more than 30 years in 9 Rochester, New York, and Sarasota, Florida, Dr. Charles R. 10 11 Mathews served as Medical Director of Sarasota Memorial Hospital from 1984 to 1989, and 12 13 WHEREAS, since November 1989, Dr. Charles R. Mathews 14 has served as the Assistant Secretary for Health Services of the Florida Department of Corrections, and 15 16 WHEREAS, as Assistant Secretary for Health Services, Dr. Charles R. Mathews is the highest ranking health care 17 professional in the Department of Corrections, and is directly 18 19 responsible for the delivery of health care to the inmate 20 population in the State of Florida, and 21 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews is the ultimate authority in the 22 Department of Corrections for health care decisions and is responsible for planning, budgeting, allocation of health care 23 resources, establishment of health care standards and 24 policies, provision of technical assistance, and quality 25 evaluation of the health care programs within the department, 26 27 and 28 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews is responsible for the health care 29 of more than 68,000 inmates currently incarcerated within the Florida correctional system, plus approximately 20,000 persons 30 31 who are admitted into the system annually, and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2,800 health care
professionals who function under the direction of Dr. Mathews,
providing for the health care needs of Florida's inmates and
handling 2.9 million health care encounters within the system
annually, and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Mathews' tenure, the health care system of the Florida Department of Corrections has achieved national recognition for the quality of health care delivered to the inmate population and for its cost-effectiveness, and

WHEREAS, among Dr. Mathews' many other accomplishments as Assistant Secretary for Health Services is the founding of the Correctional Bioethics Committee in 1994, of which Dr. Mathews has served as chairperson since its inception, and

WHEREAS, the Correctional Bioethics Committee, which includes a majority of ethicists from outside the various state correctional systems, considers issues of special concern regarding treatment of the incarcerated population, and

WHEREAS, under the direction of Dr. Mathews, the Florida Department of Corrections has assured that treatment of inmates with HIV and AIDS meets current community standards, and

WHEREAS, among the efforts to this end are the ongoing education of medical staff and inmates, a planned 120-bed Special Care Unit for advanced or complicated AIDS cases, and close affiliation with University of Miami AIDS researchers and clinicians, and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Assistant Secretary for Health Services began offering carefully selected AIDS patients access to new investigational drugs, under FDA-approved

protocols, in cooperation with University of Miami AIDS specialists, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, a miniresidency of correctional health care providers rotating through the AIDS Special Care Unit was begun, with faculty drawn from nationally recognized AIDS experts, and funding provided by grant, at no cost to the department, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles R. Mathews has assured that up-to-date training in inmate medical care is provided to physicians and other health care providers through regional programs and statewide workshops, and

WHEREAS, also during Dr. Mathews' tenure, the 21-year federal court supervision of the Florida Department of Corrections was brought to a close in March 1993, and

WHEREAS, as Assistant Secretary for Health Services, Dr. Charles R. Mathews is responsible for vast and far-reaching improvements in the delivery of inmate medical care in the State of Florida, improvements which serve as a model for correctional systems throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the Legislature of the State of Florida recognize Dr. Charles R. Mathews for his numerous contributions as Assistant Secretary for Health Services, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That the House of Representatives of the State of Florida hereby recognizes Dr. Charles R. Mathews for his numerous contributions as Assistant Secretary for Health 31 | Services of the Florida Department of Corrections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Dr. Charles R. Mathews as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.