

By Representative Bilirakis

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution in recognition of Becky Burleigh,
3 Head Coach of the University of Florida soccer
4 team.

5
6 WHEREAS, in just four seasons at the helm of the
7 University of Florida soccer team, Head Coach Becky Burleigh
8 has led the University of Florida to a spot among the nation's
9 premier collegiate soccer programs, and

10 WHEREAS, during her short time at the University of
11 Florida, Burleigh has led the Gators to three NCAA Tournament
12 berths and three Southeastern Conference Tournament titles,
13 with the Gators finishing the last three seasons by reaching
14 at least the NCAA round of 16, including winning this season's
15 NCAA title, and

16 WHEREAS, after joining the Gator program in June 1994,
17 Burleigh had over a year to put together the first Florida
18 soccer team and on September 2, 1995, she introduced a team
19 that proved itself to be ready to step into the challenges of
20 NCAA Division I soccer competition, and

21 WHEREAS, the 1995 Gator team put together a record of
22 14-4-2, finishing runner-up in the SEC Eastern Division, and

23 WHEREAS, Burleigh's second Gator team made it known
24 early that it was ready to take a spot among the nation's
25 elite, jumping quickly into the top 10 of every national poll,
26 a position it would hold throughout the 1996 season, and

27 WHEREAS, Burleigh was named the 1996 SEC Coach of the
28 Year after the Gators swept through the Southeastern
29 Conference season and tournament undefeated, collecting the
30 program's first league crown, and

31

1 WHEREAS, as a second-year program, Florida was the
2 youngest program in the 32-team field of the 1996 NCAA
3 Tournament, reaching the NCAA quarterfinal and finishing the
4 season ranked in the nation's top 10, posting a
5 then-program-best record of 22-3, and

6 WHEREAS, the 1997 Florida team defeated three top-25
7 teams en route to reaching the 20-win marker for the second
8 consecutive year, as the Gators strung together a 20-3-1
9 record, and

10 WHEREAS, the Gators finished second in the SEC Eastern
11 Division, and received a bid to its second consecutive NCAA
12 Tournament in 1997, reaching the second round of the
13 tournament, and

14 WHEREAS, in 1998, Burleigh led the Gators to their best
15 season ever in the program's four-year history, and

16 WHEREAS, besides claiming the program's first NCAA
17 title, Florida set season marks for best record (26-1),
18 highest national ranking (No. 3), and highest NCAA Tournament
19 seeding (No. 2), and

20 WHEREAS, Florida captured its third straight SEC
21 Tournament title and advanced to its first-ever NCAA Final
22 Four, and

23 WHEREAS, by taking the University of Florida to the
24 Final Four, Becky Burleigh became only the second female
25 soccer coach to lead her team to the NCAA semifinals and the
26 first to win the NCAA crown, and

27 WHEREAS, in nine seasons of coaching, Becky Burleigh
28 has compiled an overall record of 164-34-9, for an overall
29 winning percentage of .792, and

30 WHEREAS, Becky Burleigh's 24 wins in 1998 mark a career
31 high in single season wins, and

1 WHEREAS, Becky Burleigh has also received the
2 NSCAA/Adidas, College Soccer Weekly, and Soccer Buzz National
3 Coach of the Year awards, NOW, THEREFORE,

4
5 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
6 Florida:

7
8 That the House of Representatives of the State of
9 Florida hereby recognizes Becky Burleigh for her tremendous
10 success and her many accomplishments as the head coach of the
11 University of Florida soccer team.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
13 be presented to Becky Burleigh, head coach of the University
14 of Florida soccer team, as a tangible token of the sentiments
15 expressed herein.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31