

By Representative Posey

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House Resolution

A resolution in recognition of Clyde Hart.

WHEREAS, Clyde Hart was born in Melbourne, Florida, on December 30, 1920, and is most well-known in the State of Florida as the owner of Orlando Speedworld and the New Smyrna Speedway, and

WHEREAS, the parents of Clyde Hart, George and Agnus Hart, were pioneer residents in the Orlando area, and

WHEREAS, Lake Hart and Lake Mary Jane in southeast Orange County are named after the pioneer Hart family, and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in Orlando in 1939, Clyde Hart went to live with an uncle and aunt in New Smyrna Beach, and

WHEREAS, it was in New Smyrna that Clyde Hart began to work cattle from the open range from Seville to Palatka and the southern part of the St. Johns River, and

WHEREAS, during a brief period in which he worked for the Florida East Coast Railroad, Clyde Hart married his wife, Victoria "Dolly" Hart, in 1941, before he returned to working cattle again, and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Clyde Hart bought 5,000 acres of land from the Florida Farms Service, and

WHEREAS, Clyde and Dolly Hart began clearing and draining the land, using the natural byproducts of the property, such as heart cypress, green cypress, and turpentine, to pay for the land, and

WHEREAS, with the money generated from these sales, they invested in more land, small business centers, U.S. Post Offices, pari-mutuel harness horse racing tracks, the New Smyrna Speedway, the Orlando Speedworld Oval Track, the

1 Orlando Speedworld Drag Strip, additional land, and more
2 cattle, and

3 WHEREAS, among Clyde Hart's many accomplishments was
4 his service as one of the supervisors of the New Smyrna/DeLand
5 Drainage District, and

6 WHEREAS, Clyde Hart was instrumental in forming the
7 Volusia County Farm Bureau, served as past president of the
8 Volusia County Cattlemen's Association, and past vice
9 president of the Florida Cattle Association, and

10 WHEREAS, in the early 1960's, Clyde Hart headed a group
11 that influenced the passage of the first pari-mutuel horse
12 racing bill in the Florida Legislature in 20 years, and

13 WHEREAS, Clyde Hart was also instrumental in obtaining
14 the pari-mutuel license for the Pompano Harness Track in
15 Hollywood, Florida, and

16 WHEREAS, on June 25, 1998, Clyde Hart died, and

17 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and fond remembrance
18 that the citizens of the Central Florida area whose lives were
19 touched by Clyde Hart mark his passing, and

20 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the Florida
21 House of Representatives recognize Clyde Hart for his many
22 contributions to the state and the Central Florida area, NOW,
23 THEREFORE,

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

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28 That the House of Representatives of the State of
29 Florida hereby recognizes Clyde Hart for his many
30 contributions to the citizens of the Central Florida area and
31 to the State of Florida.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
2 be presented to Victoria "Dolly" Hart and Robert L. Hart as a
3 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.
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