By Representative Wiles

House Resolution

A resolution designating "Wildfire Awareness Week."

WHEREAS, public and private forests and other wildlands make up more than two-thirds of Florida's land area, and

WHEREAS, trees are nature's irreplaceable natural factory for oxygen and provide clean air, clean water, noise abatement, wildlife habitat, and water-shed protection, and

WHEREAS, millions of people enjoy such diverse activities as hunting, birdwatching, canoeing, fishing, cycling, horseback riding, swimming, camping, and hiking in Florida's forests each year, and

WHEREAS, Florida's forests provide to Florida's citizens a renewable bounty of over 5,000 different wood products, 132,000 jobs, and a $9 billion economic benefit, and

WHEREAS, thousands of families are choosing these natural areas for building their homes, thereby creating a wildland-urban interface, and

WHEREAS, wildfire is a major threat to this valuable resource and to the families residing in woodland settings, and

WHEREAS, wildfires damage thousands of acres of wildland annually, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the House of Representatives hereby designates the second week of April 1999, and the same week in each succeeding year, as "Wildfire Awareness Week."

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.