

By Representatives Melvin and Peaden

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House Resolution

A resolution in recognition of the Gulf Area Garden Club of Fort Walton Beach on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, one of the first organizations to be established in Fort Walton Beach was the Gulf Area Garden Club, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Area Garden Club was formed in 1949 and celebrated its 50th year of service on February 14, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the only other women's social organization in existence at that time was the Fort Walton Woman's Club, formed approximately one year earlier, and

WHEREAS, the population of Fort Walton Beach in 1949 was approximately 100, and the two organizations were instrumental in providing many of the social and cultural amenities in the area, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Area Garden Club is affiliated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and

WHEREAS, from the beginning, the Gulf Area Garden Club took the lead locally, not only in preserving and enhancing the beauty of the area, but in many aspects of life which called for community leadership, and

WHEREAS, while its primary purpose has always been the study and development of gardens, gardening, wildlife, and birds, the club has always taken the lead in programs for improvement of water quality, preservation of beaches and dunes, and enhancement of city-owned property through the use of flowers and trees, and

1 WHEREAS, for many years the Gulf Area Garden Club's
2 Annual Flower Show has been one of the highpoints of the year
3 in Fort Walton Beach, and
4 WHEREAS, plant sales and the distribution of literature
5 concerning horticulture by the garden club have helped many
6 newcomers establish beautiful gardens in the very different
7 climate and soil found in the area, and
8 WHEREAS, the Gulf Area Garden Club has taken its
9 programs into area schools, with special attention to "Junior
10 Gardeners," instilling a love of flowers, birds, and
11 landscapes which will remain with these children for the rest
12 of their lives, and
13 WHEREAS, members of the Gulf Area Garden Club have
14 taught the children of the Fort Walton Beach area the science
15 of plant growth, the secrets of attracting and feeding
16 butterflies and birds, and the need for maintaining the
17 natural and landscaped beauty of the area, and
18 WHEREAS, the Brooks-Beal Center, built jointly by the
19 Garden Club and the Woman's Club on land donated by the Brooks
20 family to the Gulf Area Garden Club, is shared with the
21 community as a meeting place for a number of organizations and
22 churches, and
23 WHEREAS, the Gulf Area Garden Club has called upon the
24 cities, schools, universities, and other public groups in the
25 Fort Walton Beach area to plant golden lantana in as many
26 areas as possible, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of
27 the club, and
28 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House
29 of Representatives recognize the Gulf Area Garden Club on
30 this, its 50th Anniversary, NOW, THEREFORE,
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1 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Florida:

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4 That the House of Representatives of the State of
5 Florida hereby honors the Gulf Area Garden Club of Fort Walton
6 Beach for its 50 years of service to the citizens of the Fort
7 Walton Beach community and surrounding areas.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
9 be presented to the president of the Gulf Area Garden Club as
10 a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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