

By Senators Clary, Kirkpatrick, Lee, Geller, Casas, Scott, Dyer, Laurent, Carlton, Dawson, Forman, Brown-Waite, Bronson, Mitchell, Grant, Kurth, Sullivan, Saunders, King and Horne

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution honoring Senator W. D. Childers.

WHEREAS, Senator Wyon Dale Childers was born in Okaloosa County, graduated from high school in Bay County and from Florida State University, and now resides in Escambia County, and

WHEREAS, with his wife, Ruth, he raised four daughters, Gail, Jeanna, Karen, and Marvel; and they have been a family beloved by and involved in the community, and

WHEREAS, Senator Childers was elected to the Florida Senate in November 1970 and has demonstrated the ability to be re-elected subsequently with a greater majority, and

WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Conservation Committee during the environmentally oriented period of 1972 to 1974 and became an expert in the natural resources of the State of Florida, our most valuable heritage, and

WHEREAS, Senator Childers has reconstituted his environmental effort on behalf of his constituents of Northwest Florida, turning over a new leaf and becoming an environmentalist, and

WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee from 1974 to 1977 and now serves as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated a keen grasp of the fiscal affairs of state government and an ability to balance fairly the priorities of the numerous needs and demands for government services, and

1 WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of the Senate Rules and
2 Calendar Committee and proved outstanding in his even-handed
3 and fair consideration of all members' legislation, and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Childers was elected and served as
5 President of the Senate from 1980-1982, and

6 WHEREAS, he has been recognized by his Senate
7 colleagues as Most Outstanding in Debate for his ability to
8 relate complex issues to average men and women in their
9 everyday lives, and

10 WHEREAS, he has passed his skills along to his
11 grandson, Bradley Springer, as demonstrated early this
12 legislative session, and

13 WHEREAS, he is the longest-serving member and the Dean
14 of the Florida Senate, respected for his wisdom, whose
15 guidance and expertise are often sought in solving state
16 problems to benefit his constituents and all of Florida, and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Childers' colorful use of the English
18 language is eclipsed only by his often-colorful attire, and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Childers is the only known person
20 outside the jungle who is able to wrestle a woolly booger to
21 the ground with one hand tied behind his back, and

22 WHEREAS, in 1993 Senator Childers met with Governor
23 Lawton Chiles, and the two men developed a plan for the State
24 of Florida to recover the moneys the state had expended as a
25 result of the illnesses caused by tobacco, and

26 WHEREAS, during the 1994 legislative session, Senator
27 Childers took the lead to unanimously pass the amendment in
28 the Senate to establish the Florida 3rd Party Medicaid
29 Recovery Act, which allowed Florida to successfully bring the
30 tobacco companies to task, and

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1 WHEREAS, as a result of Senator Childers' efforts in
2 association with Governor Chiles, this legislation has been
3 called the most significant legislative act ever passed in
4 regard to health care in the United States, and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Chiles stated that this was the most
6 significant event in his political career and will result in
7 the State of Florida recovering 13 billion dollars and saving
8 100,000 lives a year, and

9 WHEREAS, the loss of Senator W.D. Childers will create
10 a void in the Florida Senate, where his sage advice and
11 counsel will be sorely missed, and the members of the Senate
12 earnestly believe that the needs of Florida and his
13 constituents would best be served by his continued service in
14 the Capitol, where he has expertise, seniority, and the
15 confidence of the members of the legislative, executive, and
16 judicial branches of state government, NOW, THEREFORE,

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18 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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20 That, through the Lawton & Rhea Chiles Center for
21 Healthy Mothers & Babies and the University of South Florida,
22 the Legislature intends to endow a Distinguished
23 Chair/Professorship in Maternal and Child Health: Tobacco,
24 Alcohol, and Drug Abuse Prevention in the name of Senator W.D.
25 Childers.

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