

By Senator Clary

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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 wooly 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, the loss of Senator W.D. Childers will create  
2 a void in the Florida Senate, where his sage advice and  
3 counsel will be sorely missed, and the members of the Senate  
4 earnestly believe that the needs of Florida and his  
5 constituents would best be served by his continued service in  
6 the Capitol, where he has expertise, seniority, and the  
7 confidence of the members of the legislative, executive, and  
8 judicial branches of state government, and

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

13           WHEREAS, Governor Chiles stated that this was the most  
14 significant event in his political career and will result in  
15 the State of Florida recovering 13 billion dollars and saving  
16 100,000 lives a year, 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.