

By Representative Turnbull

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing Elaine Gordon for her many years of service to the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon served the citizens of Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida with honor and distinction as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1972 to 1994, and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon was an acknowledged trailblazer for women, spearheading the effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, advocating numerous legislative initiatives to preserve and advance rights for women, winning repeal of the Disabilities of Marriage Act, promoting the protection of women through child support enforcement and domestic violence legislation, and being the first woman inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame and the first recipient of the Florida United Way Humanitarian Award, and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon achieved major positions of leadership in Florida, serving as the chair of the Committee on Health and Rehabilitative Services (1976-1978, 1980-1982), the scope of which included all human service programs and the Department of Corrections; as Chair of the Committee on House Administration (1978-1980); and as the first woman Speaker pro tempore (1984-1986), while at the same time serving as chair of the subcommittee on appropriations that considered the budget of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and related agencies (1982-1988, 1990-1992), and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon was a public servant with many and diverse interests that included serving on the state's first comprehensive water quality committee and on a joint committee on prison overcrowding, and

1 WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon was an outspoken and passionate
2 voice for Florida's underrepresented, sponsoring and passing
3 legislation to protect and serve children, the elderly,
4 victims of crimes, and the mentally ill, and

5 WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon was one of the champions of
6 Florida's landmark 1989 hate crimes law which served as a
7 model for the nation, and

8 WHEREAS, Elaine Gordon was much beloved and respected
9 by her colleagues and the staff of the Florida House of
10 Representatives, and has been described as loyal,
11 compassionate, and committed, attentive to those less
12 fortunate, a mentor to many, a devoted wife, loving mother,
13 and cherished friend, but, most of all, as selfless and
14 determined to do what was right and best for others, NOW,
15 THEREFORE,

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

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20 That the House of Representatives hereby recognizes and
21 commemorates the life of Elaine Gordon for her many
22 contributions to the betterment of the State of Florida and
23 expresses its sincere condolences to her family, friends, and
24 admirers.

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