

By Representative Sublette

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring Orange County Deputy Sheriff David Gross, Orlando Police Officer Edward Diaz, and fallen Orlando Police Officer George DeSalvia.

WHEREAS, the law enforcement officers of Florida bravely and selflessly risk their lives in order to protect the citizens they serve, performing their duties under all conditions and facing unknown hazards and dangers in an environment that seems increasingly hostile every day they go to work, and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2000, Orange County Deputy Sheriff David Gross was shot and seriously wounded by a suspect during a routine traffic stop in Orange County and, showing remarkable restraint, allowed the suspect to flee the scene rather than returning fire, for fear that an innocent civilian might be injured, and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2000, Orlando Police Officer Edward Diaz was shot three times in the back, also during a routine traffic stop, after which time he underwent intensive spinal cord rehabilitation at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and now faces months of rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, the City of Orlando lost first-year police officer George S. DeSalvia when he was shot to death during the same traffic stop in which Officer Diaz was wounded, leaving his wife, Cynthia, and three young children, as well as countless fellow officers, friends, and citizens, to cope with the tragic and senseless loss of this beloved husband, father, and comrade, and

1 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has been well served by
2 these brave men who selflessly offered themselves, Officer
3 DeSalvia making the ultimate sacrifice, in order to protect
4 and preserve the security and safety of its citizens, NOW,
5 THEREFORE,

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

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10 That the House of Representatives proudly and
11 thankfully commends Officer Diaz and Deputy Gross for their
12 bravery, their devotion to duty, and their dedication to the
13 citizens of the State of Florida and extends its most sincere
14 sympathy and appreciation to Cynthia DeSalvia for the pride
15 and dedication with which her husband, Officer George
16 DeSalvia, served his family, his agency, and all of Florida's
17 citizens.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
19 be presented to Orange County Deputy Sheriff David Gross,
20 Orlando Police Officer Edward Diaz, and Cynthia DeSalvia,
21 beloved wife of Orlando Police Officer George S. DeSalvia, as
22 a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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