

By Representative Kelly

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing Pigeon Fanciers in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 pigeon owners in Florida who keep birds as pets, compete in the show arena, or fly competition birds in races or sporting breed events, an interest shared by enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds, and

WHEREAS, the story of the domesticated pigeon spans about 4,000 years of history, pigeons having been used as messengers, as a food source, and in religious ceremonies, in addition to their having been kept as a hobby, and

WHEREAS, the first documented use of pigeons in war was that of Julius Caesar's employment of homing pigeons to transmit messages during his conquest of Gaul, a practice later adopted by the Saracens during the Crusades and used in the Franco-Prussian War in the delivery of thousands of communications into Paris, and there are many accounts of these birds, some later decorated, having saved untold numbers of lives flying messages behind enemy lines during World Wars I and II, and

WHEREAS, an example of the use of carrier pigeons in commerce is the world-renowned Reuters News Agency, which had its beginnings as a pigeon postal service in Europe during the late 1800's, and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 300 breeds of pigeons worldwide, many having been developed to meet the strict criteria of the show arena, many for specific sporting or performance feats, and many, referred to as "utility" breeds, for food production, but the most popular breed is the racing

1 homer or homing pigeon, first developed in Belgium, and now
2 raced in competitions in almost every nation, and

3 WHEREAS, there are presently more than 50 pigeon clubs
4 in Florida, the most numerous of which are the racing pigeon
5 clubs, followed by show breed clubs and a few clubs
6 specializing in performance roller competitions, and

7 WHEREAS, clearly a pastime enjoyed by Floridians of all
8 ages and walks of life, pigeon competitions provide a
9 wholesome interest and entertainment for all segments of our
10 society, NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
13 Florida:

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15 That the House of Representatives commends the Pigeon
16 Fanciers of Florida for their interest in a bird that holds a
17 unique place in history and for their participation in a hobby
18 that dates back for centuries.

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