

By Senator Carlton

24-1533-01

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Senate Resolution No. _____

A resolution honoring Dr. William Russell Mote.

WHEREAS, born in 1906 in Tampa, Florida, Dr. William Russell Mote grew up by the sea and developed an intense love for all the treasures that it holds, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mote left his home in 1929 for New York, where he founded the Republic Carloading and Distributing Company with partner Ted Bartels, popularizing a technique that made it practical to transport large trailers and containers on train flatcars across the United States, and

WHEREAS, although he made his fortune developing efficient means of moving cargo from ship to shore, Dr. William Mote never forgot his love for the sea, and focused much of his energy and his fortune to protecting the vast riches it held, and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the Republic Carloading and Distributing Company's Board of Directors, Dr. Mote directed his focus on his first love, serving on The Florida Council of 100 Committee on Oceanography and, after moving to Sarasota, Florida, in 1965, working to make Cape Haze Marine Laboratory a thriving marine research facility, and

WHEREAS, for his efforts in transforming the small Cape Haze Marine laboratory into an internationally recognized institution, the name was changed to Mote Marine Laboratory in 1967, in honor of the members of the Mote family, the laboratory's main benefactors, and the following year, Dr. William Mote received the Gold Medal Award of the International Oceanographic Foundation, and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. William Russell Mote actively participated
2 in the Mote Marine laboratory affairs until his death on July
3 18, 2000, and

4 WHEREAS, in his lifetime, Dr. Mote dedicated his
5 services to preserving the sea through partnerships with the
6 Florida State University, from which he received an honorary
7 doctorate degree, establishing the William R. and Lenore Mote
8 Eminent Scholar Chair in Fisheries Ecology and Enhancement and
9 providing intern scholarships, as well as establishing the
10 Mote Vascular Foundation to further the lay public's and the
11 medical community's knowledge of vascular diseases and their
12 treatment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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16 That the Florida Senate pauses in its deliberations to
17 honor the memory of Dr. William Russell Mote in recognition of
18 his tireless efforts to preserve our beautiful seas and all
19 life therein, and to encourage everyone to honor the memory of
20 one of Florida's most accomplished philanthropists, a man
21 whose life is a testament to the good that we all can
22 accomplish when we follow our hearts.

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