

By Senators Laurent, Campbell, Smith, Wasserman Schultz and Dyer

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution expressing sorrow at the death of the Honorable Stephen C. O'Connell.

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate, with deep regret, was informed of the death of Stephen C. O'Connell, and

WHEREAS, Stephen C. O'Connell was a lawyer, banker, rancher, Supreme Court Justice, university president, athlete, Gator, father, husband, and friend, and

WHEREAS, Stephen C. O'Connell honorably served his nation, rising to the rank of Major during World War II, and

WHEREAS, Stephen C. O'Connell served his state as a Justice on the Florida Supreme Court from 1955 to 1967, as President of the University of Florida from 1967 to 1973, and was the only person to serve both as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and President of the University of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Stephen C. O'Connell exemplified the description of "scholar and gentleman," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That this legislative body does pause in its deliberations to pay its respects to the Honorable Stephen C. O'Connell and that the Florida Senate in session assembled does hereby record this testimonial of esteem and bereavement:

IN MEMORIAM

STEPHEN C. O'CONNELL

Stephen C. O'Connell was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, on January 22, 1916. He attended the University of Florida, where he was president of the student body and

1 captain of the boxing team. He served in the Army Air Corps in  
2 World War II, rising to the rank of Major. He returned to Ft.  
3 Lauderdale where he practiced law until he was appointed to  
4 the Florida Supreme Court in 1955. He served on the Supreme  
5 Court until 1967, serving as Chief Justice his final year. He  
6 left the court to accept the position of President of the  
7 University of Florida, serving from 1967 to 1973, during which  
8 time he guided the university through a turbulent period of  
9 campus unrest with the straight talk, old-world manners,  
10 impish humor, integrity, and determination to do the right  
11 thing -- qualities with which he was identified throughout his  
12 life.

13           Upon leaving the University of Florida in 1973, he  
14 returned to Tallahassee, where he embarked upon several  
15 successful enterprises and lived until his death on April 13,  
16 2001.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
18 signed by the President of the Senate, with the Seal of the  
19 Florida Senate affixed, be transmitted to Mrs. Cindy Bowling  
20 O'Connell, widow of Stephen C. O'Connell, as a tangible token  
21 of the sentiments expressed by the Florida Senate and as a  
22 lasting symbol of the respect held by the members of the  
23 Florida Senate.

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