

By Senator King

8-1896-02

1 Senate Resolution No. _____

2 A resolution honoring Rex David "Dave" Thomas
3 and expressing the deepest condolences of the
4 Florida Senate to his family upon his death.

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6 WHEREAS, the Senate has learned with great sadness of
7 the death of Dave Thomas from liver cancer at the age of 69 on
8 January 8, 2002, and

9 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas, who was born in Atlantic City,
10 New Jersey, on July 2, 1932, and adopted shortly thereafter by
11 Rex and Auleva Thomas of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was a lifelong
12 advocate and activist for the cause of adoption, and

13 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas, in 1979, was awarded the Horatio
14 Alger Award for dedication, individual initiative, and
15 commitment to excellence, as exemplified by remarkable
16 achievements accomplished through honesty, hard work,
17 self-reliance, and perseverance, and

18 WHEREAS, from 1990 until 2000, Dave Thomas was national
19 spokesman for numerous White House adoption and foster-care
20 initiatives, and

21 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas received numerous awards,
22 including the Angel in Adoption Award by the Congressional
23 Coalition on Adoption, for generating awareness of the
24 thousands of children waiting for permanent homes and loving
25 families, and

26 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas, in 1992, established the Dave
27 Thomas Foundation for Adoption and donated his speaking fees
28 and profits from sales of his books, "Dave's Way, Well Done!"
29 and "Franchising for Dummies", to adoption causes, and

30 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas established the Dave Thomas
31 Foundation for Adoption to work with national adoption

1 organizations, individuals, and public and private agencies to
2 raise awareness of children awaiting adoption and to provide
3 direct support for programs seeking to find permanent homes
4 for children in foster care, and

5 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas established the Dave Thomas Center
6 for Adoption Law to facilitate the adoption process through
7 education, advocacy, and research, and

8 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas was a constructive force in
9 shaping corporate health policy to cover adoption expenses,
10 and, through his efforts, 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies
11 now offer adoption benefits to their employees, and

12 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas received the 2001 Social Awareness
13 Award from the United States Postal Service for being
14 instrumental in the use of the Adoption Awareness postage
15 stamp as a vehicle for highlighting the cause of adoption, and

16 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas founded Wendy's Old-Fashioned
17 Hamburgers in Columbus, Ohio, on November 15, 1969, and
18 transformed it into one of the most successful food franchises
19 in the country, and, in promoting Wendy's, became a national
20 figure representing a friendly face, good food, and a kind
21 sense of humor, and

22 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas, in 1993, 45 years after leaving
23 school, earned his GED certificate and received his high
24 school diploma from Coconut Creek High School in Ft.
25 Lauderdale, Florida, securing him as a role model to students
26 of all ages, and

27 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas used his financial success to
28 promote and advance the cause of adoption, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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1 That America has lost one of its most dedicated and
2 hardest working advocates for adoption, and the Florida Senate
3 honors him in his devotion to family, life, and business and
4 expresses its deep and heartfelt condolences to his family on
5 their loss.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
7 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Dave
8 Thomas family as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
9 Florida Senate.

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