

By Senator Saunders

25-2261-02

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Senate Resolution No. _____

A resolution recognizing Brian Shimer, resident of Naples, Florida, and member of the four-man United States Olympic bobsled team that captured the bronze medal at the 19th Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

WHEREAS, as a resident of warm and sunny Naples, Brian Shimer persevered and excelled in an unusual sport in this state which involves piloting a sled through 15 twists and turns as it rockets down a steep, one-mile tunnel of ice, and

WHEREAS, as the premier bobsled driver in the United States since 1990 and a winner of the World Cup championship in 1987 in the four-man sled, 39-year-old Brian Shimer participated in his fifth and final Winter Olympic Games as the driver of USA-2, a bobsled team consisting of Brian and Mike Kohn, Doug Sharp, and brakeman Dan Steele, and

WHEREAS, after missing the bronze medal by two-hundredths of a second at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, Brian Shimer was able to hold off former World Cup champion, Martin Annen of Switzerland, on the final run in Park City, Utah, to clinch the bronze medal and join silver medalist Todd Hays and the team that piloted USA-1 on the medals podium in Salt Lake City, ending a 46-year medal drought for the United States in a sport typically dominated by Europeans, and

WHEREAS, as a tribute to his years of dedication and training as an accomplished athlete who defined the sport of bobsledding in the United States for 15 years, Brian Shimer was chosen by the other Winter Olympic athletes from the

1 United States to carry the American flag during the closing
2 ceremony at the Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium, and

3 WHEREAS, Brian Shimer's accomplishments have brought
4 honor to this state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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8 That the Florida Senate commends Brian Shimer for his
9 outstanding dedication to his sport and to the Olympic dream,
10 which dedication has brought honor to this state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
12 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Brian
13 Shimer as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
14 Senate.

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