House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Florida's Hometown U.S.A. participants.

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WHEREAS, Florida's Hometown U.S.A., an educational youth program organized in 1986, plays a significant role in the development of young people in the State of Florida by encouraging their active involvement in home, church, school, and community activities, and

WHEREAS, recognizing that today's students will carry with them into tomorrow's society those values and skills learned in their youth, Florida's Hometown U.S.A. seeks out five young women each year and provides them opportunities to represent their hometowns while performing volunteer service throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, opportunities for service have run the gamut from distributing toys to youngsters in children's hospitals to entertaining residents of nursing homes and retirement centers, from sharing smiles with patients of veterans' hospitals to participating in sing-alongs with lonely seniors, and from distributing food to needy families to acting as Grand Marshals in the Walt Disney World Parade, and

WHEREAS, in addition to having received recognition from the President of the United States, as well as from the Vice President, the First Lady, and the United States Congress, the young representatives of Florida's Hometown U.S.A. have been commended by the Governor, the Florida Legislature, and the state Department of Commerce, and

WHEREAS, especially meaningful during their year of service is the annual trip to the State Capital, where the young women are conducted on a tour of the Capitol and shown

points of interest around the city, with emphasis on state government and the history of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the five outstanding representatives of Florida's Hometown U.S.A. for the year 2002 are Hayley Hawkinberry, from Jacksonville; Lisa Katlyn Pabst, from Newberry; Megan Polly, from Groveland; Whitney Egstad, from Eagle Lake; and Brandy Merritt, from Center Hill, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

 That the House of Representatives enthusiastically recognizes Florida's Hometown U.S.A. participants for the year 2002 as extraordinary examples of the state's fine young ladies and extends to them its sincere good wishes in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to each of these young people as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.