

By Representative Bense

House Resolution

A resolution honoring the memory of Dave Thomas.

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

WHEREAS, in 1993, 45 years after leaving school, Dave Thomas earned his GED certificate and received his high school diploma from Coconut Creek High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, thereby establishing himself as a role model to students of all ages, and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Dave Thomas was awarded the Horatio Alger Award for dedication, individual initiative, and commitment to excellence, as exemplified by his remarkable accomplishments achieved through honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance, and

WHEREAS, from 1990 until 2000, Dave Thomas was the national spokesman for numerous White House adoption and foster care initiatives and was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Angel in Adoption Award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the 2001 Social Awareness Award from the United States Postal Service for promoting the use of the Adoption Awareness postage stamp as a vehicle for highlighting the cause of adoption, and

WHEREAS, Dave Thomas established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992, to work with national adoption organizations, individuals, and public and private

1 agencies in raising awareness of children awaiting adoption
2 and to provide direct support for programs seeking to find
3 permanent homes for children in foster care, and
4 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas founded the Dave Thomas Center for
5 Adoption Law to ease and facilitate the adoption process
6 through education, advocacy, and research; he was a
7 constructive force in shaping corporate health policy to cover
8 adoption expenses, with the result that 75 percent of Fortune
9 1000 companies now offer adoption benefits to their employees;
10 and he donated his speaking fees and profits from sales of his
11 books, "Dave's Way, Well Done!" and "Franchising for Dummies,"
12 to adoption causes, and
13 WHEREAS, Dave Thomas used his time, energy, and
14 financial resources to promote and advance the cause of
15 adoption, NOW, THEREFORE,
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17 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
18 Florida:
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20 That the House of Representatives respectfully honors
21 the memory of Dave Thomas, devoted family man, successful
22 businessman, and tireless advocate for children in need of
23 permanent homes with loving families.
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
25 be presented to the family of Dave Thomas as a tangible token
26 of the sentiments expressed herein.
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