

By Senator Brown-Waite

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Senate Resolution No. _____

A resolution commemorating the life of Alfred
A. McKethan of Hernando County.

WHEREAS, Alfred A. McKethan, Brooksville native,
philanthropist, and Florida Gator booster was a
fourth-generation Floridian who exerted great influence in
banking, road planning, and citrus, and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKethan started working in his father's
bank at age 15 and later boasted that he had done every job in
the bank before being appointed the youngest president of the
Florida Bankers Association at age 38, and

WHEREAS, Alfred McKethan's many accomplishments
included: heading the State Road Board that brought about the
original Sunshine Skyway, helping to choose a site for Eckerd
College, and serving as the first chairman of the Southwest
Florida Water Management District board, and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKethan was active in the Florida Bankers
Association, serving as its president in 1946-47 and, during
20 years as its legislative liaison, guiding the formation of
state and federal banking laws, and

WHEREAS, he contributed generously of his wealth to the
county hospital and the public library, to Pasco-Hernando
Community College, and to the University of Florida, which
named its baseball stadium for him, and

WHEREAS, he had the ear of Presidents and Governors and
was honored by Governor Lawton Chiles and the Cabinet in 1994
for a lifetime of service to the state, and

WHEREAS, he was a founder of Florida Citrus Mutual, the
giant grower cooperative established in 1954, and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. McKethan successfully sought to create the
2 Southwest Florida Water Management District and was the first
3 chairman of the district's governing board, and

4 WHEREAS, he enjoyed a 71-year career at his family's
5 bank, retiring in 1994 from the institution originally called
6 Hernando State Bank and later SunBank and Trust Co., part of
7 SunTrust Banks, Inc., and

8 WHEREAS, he was noted for hosting spirited gatherings
9 of his family and friends at his homes in Brooksville and
10 Bayport, as well as for his legendary generosity and his
11 business and political acumen, and

12 WHEREAS, his active and accomplished life came to an
13 end on April 1, 2002, at age 93 in the county that he loved so
14 well and served so effectively, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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18 That the Florida Senate pays its respect to Alfred A.
19 McKethan as, in the words of Senator Bob Graham, "a giant in
20 the generation that built modern Florida" and expresses its
21 condolences to his daughter Mary Celia Buckner, to his sister
22 Dorothy Mason, and to his grandchildren and
23 great-grandchildren.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
25 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Mary
26 Celia Buckner and the family of Alfred McKethan as a token of
27 the sentiments expressed herein.

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