

By Senator Carlton

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution honoring the memory of Senator
Doyle E. Carlton, Jr.

WHEREAS, Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., served with distinction
in the Florida Senate for a decade, and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the Florida Senate
commemorate the passing of one of its former members who
served his district and the State of Florida with distinction,
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That this legislative body does pause in its
deliberations to pay its respects to the late Senator Doyle E.
Carlton, Jr., and that the Florida Senate in session assembled
does record this testimonial of esteem and bereavement:

IN MEMORIAM

DOYLE E. CARLTON, JR.

A sixth-generation Floridian, Doyle E. Carlton, Jr.,
was born in Tampa on July 4, 1922, and died on May 10, 2003,
in Wauchula. From 1929-1933, his father was Governor of
Florida, but during the summer, young Doyle worked on
relatives' farms in Hardee County. A basketball star,
president of the student body at Plant High School (class of
1940), and captain of the basketball team at the University of
Florida, Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., continued his achievements
throughout his life. He narrowly lost the Democratic
nomination for Governor in 1960, after telling a reporter that
he would not withdraw his child from the public schools if the
schools were integrated, and in 1991, received the first LeRoy

1 Collins Award for Political Courage in recognition of his 1957
2 opposition to closing public schools rather than comply with
3 the U.S. Supreme Court's integration order. A State Senator
4 for 10 years, Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., promoted the well-being
5 of this state by persuading the Senate to fund the successful
6 eradication of the screwworm fly, which was decimating
7 Florida's cattle. Senator Carlton fought successfully to save
8 the state fair from closing, was a charter member of the
9 Florida State Fair Authority, and served as chairman of the
10 authority for 12 years. He was devoted to his wife, the former
11 Mildred Woodbery, whom he married in 1944 and who worked with
12 him to help create Cracker Country at the Florida State Fair.
13 This collection of pioneer Florida buildings includes Senator
14 Carlton's childhood home, built in Hardee County by his
15 grandparents in the 1880's. Together, the Carltons raised
16 three children and contributed significantly to society, in
17 part by supporting Hardee Memorial Hospital, Pioneer Park in
18 Zolfo Springs, and Tampa's Joshua House for unwed mothers.
19 Mrs. Carlton died in January of this year. Praised by friends
20 as a generous and unassuming man, Senator Carlton was also
21 active in the First Baptist Church of Wauchula from 1948 until
22 his death. He served on the Southern Baptist Convention's
23 Brotherhood Commission from 1956 to 1963, chaired that
24 commission in 1959, and was vice president of the Florida
25 Baptist Convention in 1960. Senator Carlton is survived by one
26 son, Doyle E. Carlton, II; two daughters, Susan Carlton Smith
27 and Jane Carlton Durando; one sister, Martha Carlton Ward; 6
28 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. In 1991, Senator
29 Carlton expressed his clear-sighted view of life in these
30 words: "It's so clear to me that whatever I have, I'm not
31 taking it with me when I leave. The earth is God's, the cattle

1 belong to Him. The greatest treasure is the love my children
2 and grandchildren have for each other."

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
4 signed by the President of the Senate, with the Seal of the
5 Senate affixed, be transmitted to Doyle E. Carlton, II, as a
6 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein and as a
7 lasting symbol of the respect of the members of the Florida
8 Senate.

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