

By Senator Constantine

22-1783E-04

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

2 A resolution commending Ericka Dunlap.

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4 WHEREAS, at age 6, Ericka Dunlap, from Orlando,  
5 Florida, the youngest of five children, began competing in  
6 scholarship pageants and, over the next 15 years, won 1,100  
7 trophies and 60 crowns, and

8 WHEREAS, as the first African-American woman to become  
9 the Miss Florida pageant winner, Ericka went on to win the  
10 ultimate scholarship pageant of all when she was crowned Miss  
11 America for 2004, and

12 WHEREAS, as a graduate of William R. Boone High School  
13 and a Bright Futures Scholar, Ericka is currently a senior at  
14 the University of Central Florida and, while achieving  
15 academic honors in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Public  
16 Relations, serves on the President's Leadership Council, is a  
17 Student Government Senator, and is a member of Delta Sigma  
18 Theta Sorority, and

19 WHEREAS, when competing in the Miss America Pageant,  
20 Ericka adopted a platform entitled "Celebrating Cultural  
21 Diversity and Inclusiveness," advancing the concept "United We  
22 Stand, Divided We Fall" to awaken Americans, the media,  
23 community leaders, and policymakers in the private and public  
24 sectors to the importance of appreciating cultural differences  
25 in the people of the world, and

26 WHEREAS, Ericka is putting college on hold while she  
27 fulfills her duties as Miss America during the year of her  
28 reign, using her crown "as a symbolic propeller to take  
29 diversity issues to new heights" of public awareness, but  
30 looks forward to resuming her education, with aspirations to

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1 go to law school and practice sports and entertainment law,  
2 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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6 That Ericka Dunlap is commended for winning the 2004  
7 Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant and the 2004 Miss America  
8 Scholarship Pageant, and for choosing to encourage the  
9 "Celebration of Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness" in her  
10 year-long reign as Miss America 2004, bringing great honor to  
11 those who reside in Orlando and the State of Florida.

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

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