

By Senator Wilson

33-2012-04

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution commending Sister Jeanne
3 O'Laughlin.

4
5 WHEREAS, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, professional
6 educator, public speaker, writer, and community activist, was
7 born May 4, 1929, in Detroit, Michigan, earned her Bachelor of
8 Science Degree in Biology from Sienna Heights College, her
9 Master of Science Technology Degree in Biology from the
10 University of Arizona, and her Ph.D. Degree in Educational
11 Administration from the University of Arizona, and began her
12 career as a professional educator in 1950 when she began
13 teaching, and

14 WHEREAS, after 31 years of experience as a teacher and
15 educational administrator, Sister Jeanne became President of
16 Barry University in 1981 and in the 23 ensuing years has
17 served with distinction, leading the University to
18 unprecedented growth, diversity, and prosperity, and

19 WHEREAS, demonstrating her extraordinary leadership
20 skills, Sister Jeanne organized alumni, students, faculty,
21 staff, and community benefactors to form Team Barry, raising
22 over \$200 million, increasing scholarship funds to \$29 million
23 annually, increasing enrollment from 1,750 to 9,042 students,
24 doubling the number of the university academic schools from 5
25 to 10, adding 38 new buildings, and planting more than 2,000
26 new trees on the expanding Miami Shores campus, and

27 WHEREAS, dedicated to empowering women and minorities
28 through higher education, Sister Jeanne has led to the
29 University's recognition as the most diverse institution of
30 higher learning in the Southeastern United States for the past
31 7 years, according to U.S. News & World Report, and

1 WHEREAS, a dynamic leader among professional educators,
2 Sister Jeanne has actively participated in and led many
3 educational organizations, serving as Chair of the Association
4 of Catholic Colleges and Universities (1994-1996), a member of
5 the Executive Council of the Southern Association of Colleges
6 and Schools Commission on Colleges (1991-1996), President of
7 the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities
8 (1991-1993), Chair of the President's Council of Independent
9 Colleges and Universities (1994-1997), and a member of the
10 National Advisory Board for The Center for Educational
11 Administrative Initiatives (2002 to the present), and

12 WHEREAS, selflessly committed to community service,
13 Sister Jeanne has been honored on many occasions, including
14 being named "First Lady in Catholic Education" in 1982 by
15 Today's Catholic Teacher, and "Public Citizen of the Year" in
16 1992 and 1996 by the Miami-Dade unit of National Association
17 of Social Workers, receiving the "First Annual Life Enrichment
18 Award" in 1984 from B'nai B'rith Women of South Coastal
19 Regions, the 1988 "Women Who Make a Difference" award from the
20 Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Miami, the "Tel
21 Aviv University Friendship Award" in 1989, the "Peace and
22 Unity Award" from the St. Martin De Porres Association in 1990
23 and 1997, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from Pope
24 John-Paul II in 1992 for service to the Catholic Church, the
25 Miami Herald's "Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Award" in
26 1993, the South Florida Magazine's "Women of Distinction"
27 award in 1994, Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the
28 University of Miami in 1996, Honorary Doctorate of Humane
29 Letters from Rollins College in 1997, induction into the
30 Florida Women's Hall of Fame in 1998, the Greater Miami
31 Chamber of Commerce's "Sand in My Shoes Award" in 1999, Miami

1 Metro Magazine's "Woman of the Year" award in 2000, and
2 inclusion among Miami Business Magazine's Top 100 most
3 powerful people in Miami-Dade County in 2001, and

4 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2004, Sister Jeanne will end her
5 term of service as President of Barry University and commence
6 a 1-year sabbatical, during which she plans to finish her book
7 of memoirs entitled "Who is Love?" and lead a mission to help
8 create schools for women in other countries, with plans to
9 return to Barry University in 2005 to serve as its Chancellor,

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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14 That Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin is commended for her
15 remarkable accomplishments as a professional educator in
16 leading Barry University for the past 23 years and for her
17 contributions to the betterment of the people who reside in
18 Miami-Dade County.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
20 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Sister
21 Jeanne O'Laughlin as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
22 Florida Senate.

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