

By Senators Miller, Crist and Sebesta

18-201-05

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Senate Resolution No. _____

A resolution congratulating the owners and operators of the Columbia Restaurant on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Columbia Restaurant was founded in 1905 with its flagship in Tampa's Historic Ybor City, and has grown to include five additional facilities, and

WHEREAS, the restaurant was founded by Cuban immigrant Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., and has been owned and operated throughout the ensuing century by the next four generations of the family, including his son, Casimiro, Jr., his granddaughter, Adela and her husband Cesar Gonzmart, and now the great grandchildren, Casey and Richard Gonzmart, and the great-great grandchildren, Lauren and Andrea Gonzmart, making the Columbia Restaurant a fifth generation family-owned and operated business, with additional members of the fifth generation being trained as prospective leaders and a sixth generation of hope and promise recently begun, and

WHEREAS, the family persevered in keeping the restaurant open throughout the years, including during periods of decline in Ybor City, bringing in world class entertainment to attract customers, a tradition continuing today with renowned flamenco dancers, and

WHEREAS, after the flagship restaurant underwent \$6.5 million in renovations in anticipation of its centennial celebration, the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City now encompasses an entire city block of 52,000 square feet and, with 15 dining rooms, has enough seating for 1,700 people,
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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3 That the Gonzmart Family is recognized on the
4 celebration of the 100th birthday of the Columbia Restaurant,
5 the oldest restaurant in Florida, the largest Spanish
6 restaurant in the world, and the economic heartbeat of Ybor
7 City.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
9 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
10 Gonzmart Family as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
11 Florida Senate.

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