

By Senators Crist and Sebesta

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution commending the Tampa Bay Lightning for their outstanding 2004 ice hockey season and Stanley Cup victory against the Calgary Flames.

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 2002 declared Rwanda (in Central Africa) the "lightning capital of the world," and

WHEREAS, professional hockey's Tampa Bay Lightning unraveled the findings of those at NASA, unequivocally declaring on June 7, 2004, that Tampa is truly the "Lightning Capital of the World," as the Bolts extinguished the Calgary Flames in the seventh and final game for the Stanley Cup, and

WHEREAS, the team, 25 players strong, including captain Dave Andreychuk, with 22 years in the National Hockey League and holder of the NHL record of 270 power-play goals; Brad Richards, winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy and the Lady Byng Trophy; Martin St. Louis, winner of the Hart Trophy, the Pearson Award, and the Art Ross Trophy; Ruslan Fedotenko, who delivered both of Tampa Bay's goals in the final game; and goaltender Nikolai Khabibulin, who masterfully protected the one-goal lead in the third period, along with owner Bill Davidson, CEO Tom Wilson, president Ron Campbell, and general manager Jay Feaster, and

WHEREAS, the team arose from humble beginnings, playing in a barn at the Florida State Fairgrounds followed by three seasons in a baseball stadium, then skating to the ultimate hockey victory in the St. Pete Times Forum by being successfully challenged by head coach John Tortorella, who

1 later won the Jack Adams Award as Coach of the Year, NOW,
2 THEREFORE,

3
4 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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6 That the Florida Senate congratulates the Tampa Bay
7 Lightning on winning the 2004 Stanley Cup, making Tampa the
8 home of the best professional hockey team in North America and
9 keeping the Stanley Cup in the United States of America.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
11 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Tampa
12 Bay Lightning as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
13 Florida Senate.

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