

By Senators King, Villalobos, Pruitt, Clary, Miller and
Campbell

41-2380-05

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing Lucy Morgan, Capital

3 Bureau Chief and Associate Editor of the St.

4 Petersburg Times, upon the occasion of her

5 retirement following a distinguished career.

6

7 WHEREAS, Lucy Morgan joined the St. Petersburg Times

8 staff in 1968, beginning an eventful career during which she

9 risked an 8-month jail term in 1973 in order to protect the

10 identity of confidential sources and won the Pulitzer Prize in

11 1985 for investigative reporting, and

12 WHEREAS, Lucy became the Tallahassee Bureau Chief for

13 the Times in 1986 and has covered the Senate a decade longer

14 than any current incumbent Senator has been in the Senate, and

15 WHEREAS, Lucy always favored covering the Senate over

16 the House - particularly since she shattered her ankle in the

17 House press gallery in 2000, and

18 WHEREAS, reporters who have learned about Florida

19 politics and government working under Bureau Chief Lucy Morgan

20 have gone on to The New York Times, Los Angeles Times,

21 Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, and

22 Boston Globe, and

23 WHEREAS, in the era before cell phones and e-mails,

24 Lucy Morgan researched her stories the old-fashioned way:

25 tracking lobbyists and legislators through the Capitol

26 hallways, into hideaway offices, over to Clyde's, and on to

27 the Silver Slipper, and

28 WHEREAS, Lucy is particularly adept at conning Senators

29 into giving her budget documents and proposed bills they

30 haven't read, and then turning the documents and bills over to

31 her reporters so she won't have to read them either, and

1 WHEREAS, many a legislator has felt a mixture of
2 anticipation and dread upon seeing a message that "Lucy Morgan
3 from the St. Pete Times called," and

4 WHEREAS, for many legislators, nothing has been more
5 frustrating than to arrive at a secret meeting only to look up
6 and see Lucy sitting in the room, holding a yellow legal pad,
7 and taking copious notes, and

8 WHEREAS, Lucy has been a powerful force for public
9 records and open meetings in this state, and has helped set a
10 standard for reporting that keeps Floridians informed and
11 holds public officials accountable, and

12 WHEREAS, this is Lucy's last Regular Session of the
13 Legislature before she retires in November, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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17 That Lucy Morgan, Capital Bureau Chief of the St.
18 Petersburg Times, is commended for her service to the State of
19 Florida and for her commitment to a free and independent
20 press.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in honor of her retirement
22 from the Capitol Press Corps, the Senate Press Gallery is
23 hereby designated as the "Lucy Morgan Senate Press Gallery."
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