

HR 9021

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the dedicated mediators of the
3 Florida court system.

4
5 WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, the Florida court system
6 has dedicated itself to the practice of a method of alternative
7 dispute resolution that offers litigants court-connected
8 opportunities to resolve their disputes without judicial
9 intervention and which has become one of the most comprehensive
10 court-connected mediation programs in the nation, and

11 WHEREAS, in 1988, legislation took effect that allowed
12 civil trial judges to refer any or all of their civil cases to
13 mediation or arbitration in the areas of county, family,
14 circuit, and dependency disputes, thus providing a more
15 suitable, cost-effective alternative to litigation, and

16 WHEREAS, for the most part volunteers, Supreme Court
17 certified mediators must attend continuing education training,
18 must be of good moral character and adhere to high ethical
19 standards, and must renew their certification every two years;
20 in 2004, 12,650 individuals had completed the training programs;
21 and there are currently 4,872 individuals certified in one or a
22 combination of the areas of dispute, and

23 WHEREAS, mediators are neutral, do not give legal advice,
24 and do not dictate the outcome; instead, by acting as
25 facilitators and working with all parties involved, mediators
26 attempt to get the parties to devise their own mutually
27 acceptable agreement, and

HR 9021

2005

28 WHEREAS, mediators, who usually volunteer to serve four
29 days a month, devoting about four or five hours and completing
30 an average of two to four cases each day, are indeed an integral
31 part of conflict resolution not only within the court system but
32 also in governmental and private sectors as well, NOW,
33 THEREFORE,

34

35 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
36 Florida:

37

38 That Florida's mediators, who perform their invaluable
39 services on an entirely volunteer basis, are enthusiastically
40 commended for their commitment to their communities and for
41 their dedication to a program that, through their untiring
42 efforts, has become a highly successful method of conflict
43 resolution.