

HR 9205

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Seminole County Sheriff Donald
3 Eslinger, Linda Gregory, and Alice Petree.

4
5 WHEREAS, on July 8, 1998, a 13-hour standoff in Seminole
6 County involving a man with a history of severe mental illness
7 resulted in the deaths of Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory and Alan
8 Singletary, and

9 WHEREAS, following a vow to not let those deaths be in
10 vain, Seminole County Sheriff Donald Eslinger created a Mental
11 Health Task Force to advocate for reforms in mental health and
12 substance abuse services and laws, and

13 WHEREAS, with Alice Petree, the sister of Alan Singletary,
14 and Linda Gregory, the widow of Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory,
15 Sheriff Eslinger worked, through the task force and with other
16 community groups and stakeholders, to increase awareness of the
17 need for treatment of mental illnesses, and

18 WHEREAS, the efforts of these advocates and the community
19 network they helped to create resulted in beneficial programs
20 for those with mental illnesses such as jail diversion, forensic
21 treatment programs, mental health screening at a county
22 correctional facility, funding for a detox receiving facility, a
23 voluntary identification program, and law enforcement crisis
24 intervention teams, and

25 WHEREAS, Sheriff Eslinger, Linda Gregory, and Alice Petree
26 devoted 4 years to raising public awareness, educating
27 lawmakers, writing and speaking to the media, and tirelessly
28 supporting Baker Act reform, and

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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature overwhelmingly passed Baker Act
30 reform in the final hours of the 2004 Regular Session, and

31 WHEREAS, the national nonprofit organization The Treatment
32 Advocacy Center awarded Sheriff Eslinger, Linda Gregory, and
33 Alice Petree the 2005 Torrey Advocacy Commendation for
34 outstanding advocacy for treatment of the most severe mental
35 illnesses in recognition of their incredible dedication,
36 courage, and tenacity in spearheading reform efforts on behalf
37 of all of Florida's citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

38
39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 Florida:

41
42 That Sheriff Donald Eslinger, Linda Gregory, and Alice
43 Petree are recognized for their successful advocacy in honor of
44 Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory and Alan Singletary and all people
45 with severe mental illnesses who will benefit from their
46 efforts.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
48 presented to Sheriff Donald Eslinger, Linda Gregory, and Alice
49 Petree as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.