

By Senator Crist

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 20, 2006, as "Lowry Park Zoo Day" throughout the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, the 2004 Legislature recognized Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Hillsborough County, as the state center for Florida species conservation and biodiversity, and

WHEREAS, Lowry Park Zoo is the top-attended nonprofit attraction in Florida and participates in the Species Survival Plan, a national breeding program managed by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Lowry Park Zoo created the Safari Africa Habitat and brought five African elephants to the zoo, including a female named "Ellie," and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2005, Ellie gave birth to a 205-pound male calf, the first African elephant born in the zoo's history, and

WHEREAS, Ellie's son was named "Tamani," a Swahili word meaning "to hope," a name proposed by Sarah Eicher's second-grade class at Frontier Elementary School in Clearwater and selected through online public voting from five proposed names, and

WHEREAS, Tamani's birth and the educational and public involvement in his naming are examples of the way in which the Lowry Park Zoo provides Florida residents and visitors with opportunities to connect with environmental and conservation issues and to celebrate the living earth, and

WHEREAS, the Lowry Park Zoo is also an outstanding example of a successful public and private partnership, maintaining an entrepreneurial spirit and tireless dedication

1 to its mission while raising 80 percent of its annual budget  
2 through earned revenue, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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6 That the Florida Senate commends the Lowry Park Zoo for  
7 its outstanding and inspirational work and recognizes April  
8 20, 2006, as "Lowry Park Zoo Day" in Florida.

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