

By Senator Hill

1-1483-06

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

## Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring Longshoreman Dale Walker for his exemplary courage and heroism in rescuing Ships Agent Susan Hite from the St. Johns River on Christmas Eve Day, 2005.

WHEREAS, in a freak dockside accident at Blount Island in Jacksonville on December 24, 2005, Susan Hite was knocked unconscious and fell into the St. Johns River when the rope-supported gangplank she was crossing suddenly came undone and sent the gangplank crashing against the ship's hull, and

WHEREAS, dock workers and bystanders rushed to the dock's edge and watched helplessly as Mrs. Hite's body was rushed along in a racing dockside current, and

WHEREAS, Dale Walker saw the situation and sprinted 100 yards down the dock to get ahead of Mrs. Hite's location, jumped down onto a dock bumper, and then into the river to intercept Mrs. Hite, who was still unconscious, and

WHEREAS, fighting the ripping current as he held Mrs. Hite's head above the surface, Mr. Walker grasped first onto one pylon and then another, which cut deeply into his hands with sharp encrustations of oyster shells, meanwhile shouting advice to his fellow longshoremen on how to help with the rescue, and

WHEREAS, while the men on the dock tossed down first a rope and then an anchor, neither of which worked, and finally a rope ladder, Mrs. Hite regained sufficient consciousness to be terrified, and Mr. Walker was still calm enough to reassure her that she was "not going to die that day," and

WHEREAS, after a 10-minute struggle up the ladder, Mr. Walker brought Mrs. Hite and himself to safety, thanking God

1 for their rescue as Mrs. Hite thanked Mr. Walker for risking  
2 his own life to save hers, and

3 WHEREAS, days later, Dale Walker also expressed his  
4 gratitude for what he sees as "the God-given opportunity to  
5 help somebody," NOW, THEREFORE,

6  
7 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

8  
9 That Dale Walker is recognized for his remarkable  
10 courage and heroism and for his deep and exemplary compassion.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,  
12 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dale  
13 Walker as a token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31