

By Senator Geller

31-2479-07

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of Lauren Beeson and congratulating her on being named a recipient of the Points of Light Award by Governor Charlie Crist.

WHEREAS, Lauren Beeson was diagnosed at the age of 6 with scleroderma, a chronic, progressive autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues, and

WHEREAS, Lauren has linear scleroderma that affects half her body so that, looking at Lauren in profile, on one side she looks "normal" while her other profile shows the ravages of her illness, and

WHEREAS, when Lauren and her mother joined the Southeast Florida Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation, she was asked if they could make her their Poster Child, and

WHEREAS, Lauren became much more than a face on a poster, she became a spokesperson for the National Scleroderma Foundation as both the Poster Child and, later, their Teen Ambassador, and

WHEREAS, Lauren and her mother traveled the country speaking about her illness and appearing on national and local TV shows; she testified before Congress asking for funding for research; and each year at school she spoke to groups of her peers explaining her illness and its effects on her body and face, and

WHEREAS, in spite of her illness and numerous surgeries, Lauren, now an 18-year-old high school senior, is an honor student, and

1 WHEREAS, Governor Charlie Crist has acknowledged
2 Lauren's efforts by naming her a recipient of the Points of
3 Light Award on April 23, 2007, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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7 That the Florida Senate proudly salutes Lauren Beeson
8 and extends to her its congratulations on being a recipient of
9 the Points of Light Award and for her work on behalf of those
10 people suffering from scleroderma.

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

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