

By Senator Joyner

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Helen Gordon Davis.

WHEREAS, Helen Gordon Davis served the people of Florida as a State Representative from 1974 to 1988, and as a State Senator from 1988 to 1992, and

WHEREAS, Senator Davis worked tirelessly to promote the well-being of women and children and has been honored for her work by many groups including the Florida Women's Consortium, American Business Women, the National Organization for Women, the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, the American Association of University Women, and the Florida League of Women Voters, and

WHEREAS, Senator Davis also steadfastly advocated for the civil rights of women and children and was the first white woman in Florida to join the NAACP, and

WHEREAS, she saw the need of widows and divorcees who had been homemakers during most of their adult lives to have peer counseling, job training, and support groups to help them enter the job market, and she established one of the first displaced homemaker programs at the Centre for Women in Tampa, and

WHEREAS, following the success of the program in Tampa, she sponsored legislation to provide for displaced homemaker centers throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Senator Davis sponsored legislation to establish the Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund from marriage license fees and divorce filing fees, a funding process that continues to this day, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Displaced Homemaker Network Association

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30 honors Helen Gordon Davis for her vision and pioneering efforts
31 on behalf of displaced homemakers in Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,
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33 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:
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35 That the Florida Senate recognizes the vision and pioneering
36 efforts of Helen Gordon Davis in improving the conditions and
37 possibilities of displaced homemakers in our time and in
38 increasing the well-being of women and children.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate recognizes this 10th
40 day of April, 2008, as "Helen Gordon Davis Appreciation Day" at
41 the State Capitol in acknowledgement of her distinguished
42 service.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
44 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Helen Gordon
45 Davis as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
46 Senate.