

By Senator Wise

5-02448C-09

20092736

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Ted M. Hires, Sr., for his valuable contributions to the residents of the City of Jacksonville and the State of Florida as an advocate of victim's rights.

WHEREAS, Ted M. Hires, Sr., was born in Jesup, Georgia, where he grew to be both ambitious and hardworking, and

WHEREAS, nearly four decades ago, Ted M. Hires, Sr., moved to Jacksonville, where he became a successful businessman, working in a variety of positions for the corporate offices of Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q and owning four Sonny's restaurants, and

WHEREAS, in July 1995, following a robbery at one of his Jacksonville restaurants, in which he and his employees were held at gunpoint, Ted M. Hires, Sr., founded the Justice Coalition, and

WHEREAS, with advocacy for innocent victims of violent crime as his prime objective and using his own funds, Ted M. Hires, Sr., built the Justice Coalition as an organization intent on helping to improve the criminal justice system's service to the community, and

WHEREAS, the Justice Coalition has made remarkable strides in bringing criminal justice to the forefront of public awareness and offering and participating in solutions to many problems that are inherent in the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Ted M. Hires, Sr., began publication of a monthly newspaper entitled the *Victims' Advocate* to inform the public about criminal justice issues and the toll that crime

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30 takes on its victims and their families, to draw attention to  
31 the need for change in the criminal laws and policies of this  
32 state, and to recognize and support efforts by members of the  
33 Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the FBI, FDLE, other law  
34 enforcement agencies and concerned citizens to reduce crime and  
35 increase public safety, and

36 WHEREAS, never asking for any compensation for himself and  
37 refusing to seek government grants to support the work of the  
38 Justice Coalition, Ted M. Hires, Sr., was a shining example of  
39 how one person can make a significant difference in the lives of  
40 others, and

41 WHEREAS, the passing of Ted M. Hires, Sr., on December 17,  
42 2008, leaves a void in the hearts of his family and friends and  
43 a community that is grateful for his many contributions, NOW,  
44 THEREFORE,

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

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48 That Ted M. Hires, Sr., is recognized for his valuable  
49 contributions to the residents of the City of Jacksonville and  
50 the State of Florida and is remembered and honored for his  
51 service to his community and his advocacy of victim's rights.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
53 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the family of  
54 Ted M. Hires, Sr., as a tangible token of the sentiments of the  
55 Florida Senate.