

By Senator Dockery

15-02733-09

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the memory of Samuel Randolph Roberts and recognizing April 18, 2009, as "Randy Roberts Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Samuel Randolph Roberts, known to his family and friends as "Randy Roberts," was born in Miami, grew up in Pembroke Pines, and attended Miramar High School, where he was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, served in the Student Government Association, and was the first student representative elected to serve on the Broward County School Board, and

WHEREAS, Randy attended the University of Florida, earning a degree in Journalism and Communications, was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and, as he often said, "loved him some Gators," and

WHEREAS, Randy met his wife, Sara Rust Roberts, while serving as a volunteer at Best Buddies, a nonprofit organization that serves Florida's students, and

WHEREAS, Randy and Sara built a loving marriage spanning 9 years and producing two beautiful children, Charlotte and Samuel, and

WHEREAS, Randy was a tireless leader in the state's political process, recruiting, training, and supporting hundreds of candidates at the local, state, and federal levels, and

WHEREAS, Randy was a passionate advocate for the state's business community, promoting policies and programs to generate jobs, encourage innovation, and stimulate growth, and

WHEREAS, Randy served with distinction as the director of government relations for Publix Super Markets, the largest

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30 employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States and a  
31 model for corporate citizenship, and

32 WHEREAS, Randy never ceased to remind his employees that  
33 Publix is the place "where shopping is a pleasure" and that the  
34 people of Florida were as important to Publix as Publix was to  
35 Florida, and

36 WHEREAS, Randy was the consummate bridge-builder,  
37 connecting people of diverse backgrounds and political  
38 affiliations, cultivating coalitions with the goal of making the  
39 world a better place, and making Florida the best that it could  
40 possibly be, and

41 WHEREAS, Randy taught those he knew countless lessons about  
42 the value of family, friendship, loyalty, humility, generosity,  
43 vision, and integrity, and

44 WHEREAS, Randy was also a man of mischief, whose sense of  
45 humor and good-natured teasing brought a smile to the faces of  
46 many who have served in this very chamber, and

47 WHEREAS, Randy had a profound appreciation for those  
48 privileged to serve in elected office and also for the tireless  
49 staff and volunteers who make such service possible, and

50 WHEREAS, Randy showed equal and abundant love for those  
51 having great power and those without, treating each of his  
52 friends as though he or she was his Very Best Friend, and

53 WHEREAS, Randy was a man of integrity, a patriotic  
54 American, and a loyal Floridian, and

55 WHEREAS, Randy Roberts was taken from us suddenly on  
56 February 27, 2009, leaving behind a loving family, countless  
57 friends and colleagues, and a hole in the heart of Florida's  
58 Capitol that will never be filled, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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62 That the Senate expresses its admiration and appreciation  
63 for the life and legacy of Samuel Randolph Roberts and expresses  
64 grief over his untimely death.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate recognizes  
66 April 18, 2009, the date of the Orange & Blue game at the  
67 University of Florida, as "Randy Roberts Day" in the State of  
68 Florida.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
70 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Sara Rust  
71 Roberts, of Lakeland, Florida, and to the corporate offices of  
72 Publix Super Markets as a tangible token of the sentiments of  
73 the Florida Senate.