

HR 9077

2009

## 1 House Resolution

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

6  
7 WHEREAS, Ted M. Hires, Sr., was born in Jesup, Georgia,  
8 where he grew to be both ambitious and hardworking, and moved to  
9 Jacksonville, Florida, almost four decades ago, where he became  
10 a successful businessman who not only worked in a variety of  
11 positions for the corporate offices of the Sonny's Real Pit  
12 Barbecue franchise but also owned four Sonny's restaurants in  
13 the Jacksonville area, and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the Justice Coalition has made remarkable strides,  
24 not only in bringing criminal justice to the forefront of public  
25 awareness, but also in offering and participating in solutions  
26 to the many problems afflicting the criminal justice system, and

27 WHEREAS, in 1996, Ted M. Hires, Sr., began publication of a  
28 monthly newspaper entitled the Victims' Advocate to inform the

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29 | general public regarding issues concerning criminal justice and  
30 | the incredible toll crime takes on its victims and their  
31 | families, to draw attention to the need for change in the  
32 | criminal laws and policies of this state, and to recognize and  
33 | support efforts to reduce crime and increase public safety by  
34 | members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and other concerned  
35 | citizens, and

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

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

44 |

45 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
46 | Florida:

47 |

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

52 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
53 | presented to the family of Ted M. Hires, Sr., as a tangible  
54 | token of the sentiments expressed herein.