

By Senator Bullard

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the outstanding professional achievements of Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi and her spirit of volunteerism in Miami-Dade County and the world community.

WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi was born on June 12, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, to the late Ray and Janie Porter, whom she shared with one sister, Carol Brooks, and

WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi humbly embraced the joys of motherhood, evidenced through her tireless devotion to her sons, Kofi, Wanakhavi, and Mupalia, and her daughter, Naliaka, all of whom earned college degrees, and her granddaughters, Makylah and Nailah Harpring, and

WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi pursued her education in Chicago, first at Corpus Christi Catholic Elementary School and, later, at Loretto Academy, and went on to attend Mundelein College, which is now a part of Loyola University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1972, and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi received a Master of Science degree in journalism from Northwestern University, and

WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi's professional writing career began in 1973, when she served as an editorial assistant at Johnson Publishing Company's *Black Stars Magazine* and the *Chicago Daily News*, and now spans 37 years, including her tenure as an assistant editor at the *Detroit News* and the *Miami Herald*, as a reporter at the *Palladium-Item* and the *Kansas City Star*, and as an associate editor at the *Plain Dealer*, and

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30 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi presently invests her time  
31 and talents in her work at the University of Miami's School of  
32 Communication, where she serves as an adjunct associate

33 professor and as managing editor of the Miami News Service, and

34 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi has authored more than 57  
35 articles, which have appeared in diverse publications including  
36 the NAACP's *Crisis Magazine*, the *Miami Times*, the *South Florida*  
37 *Sun-Sentinel*, *The Lutheran*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, and the *Miami*  
38 *Herald*, and

39 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi has influenced the lives  
40 of youth throughout this state as the director of the Peace  
41 Sullivan/James Ansin High School Summer in Journalism and New  
42 Media Workshop at the University of Miami, which introduces high  
43 school students to the field of professional journalism, and

44 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi has twice received the  
45 "Excellence in Teaching Award" from the University of Miami, has  
46 been a classroom volunteer in the Miami-Dade County public  
47 schools, a member of the executive board of the Miami-Dade  
48 NAACP, the board of trustees of Ransom Everglades School, and  
49 countless community organizations, and is a frequent speaker at  
50 conferences and seminars, and

51 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi is an unsung hero,  
52 evidenced by her service to the Greater South Florida community  
53 as the founder and current advisor of the NAACP Youth Council  
54 (South Dade Branch), which increases voter participation among  
55 the youth and exposes them to civic engagement, and her service  
56 as a state judge during the NAACP's ACT-SO (African-American,  
57 Cultural, Technical, and Scientific Organization) and as  
58 coordinator of the annual "Juneteenth" Celebration, which

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59 commemorates African American Emancipation Day, and

60 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi's most notable  
61 accomplishments lie in the loving care she rendered to her  
62 mother, Janie, as she advanced in age and fragility; her hunger  
63 strike, which brought attention to the plight of Haitian  
64 refugees held at Guantanamo Bay; her protest of and fervent  
65 opposition to South Africa's Apartheid; and her active  
66 involvement and participation in Haiti Relief Efforts in the  
67 wake of the devastating, 7.0-magnitude earthquake, and

68 WHEREAS, Tsitsi Dzamwari Wakhisi identifies situations that  
69 threaten the quality of life of humankind and writes thought-  
70 provoking articles to bring awareness to the prevalent issues of  
71 our time, including racial equality, socio-economic empowerment,  
72 and public service, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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76 That the members of the Senate recognize Tsitsi Dzamwari  
77 Wakhisi for her outstanding professional accomplishments and her  
78 spirit of volunteerism in Miami-Dade County and the world  
79 community.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
81 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Tsitsi Dzamwari  
82 Wakhisi as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida  
83 Senate.