

By Senator Justice

16-05486B-10

20102864

Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the memory of Edith "Edie" Lowengard Loebenberg, co-founder of the Florida Holocaust Museum and Holocaust survivor.

WHEREAS, Edith "Edie" Lowengard was born on March 1, 1926, into an Orthodox Jewish home in Darmstadt, Germany, the first town in that country to order shops owned by Jews to close, and

WHEREAS, due to rising anti-Semitism, Edie Lowengard's family left Germany for New York City in 1938 and subsequently moved to Chicago, Illinois, where Edie and her sister, Marion, attended public school and learned to speak English, and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 1948, Edie Lowengard married a decorated World War II veteran, Walter Loebenberg, himself a refugee from the Nazis, and

WHEREAS, Walter and Edie Loebenberg eventually settled in St. Petersburg, where they raised three children and, later, enjoyed their eight grandchildren and one great-grandson, and

WHEREAS, Edie Loebenberg worked with great passion to improve the conditions of every community in which she lived and, in 1992, was part of a group of business and community leaders who realized their vision for a living memorial dedicated to those who suffered and perished during the Holocaust, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Holocaust Center relocated to St. Petersburg from its original home in Madeira Beach and officially changed its name to the Florida Holocaust Museum, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Holocaust Museum has become one of the foremost institutions of its kind in this nation and, due to its

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30 efforts, Florida became the first state in the nation to mandate
31 Holocaust education in the public schools from kindergarten
32 through twelfth grade, and

33 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Loebenberg Humanitarian Award was
34 established and named for Edie and Walter Loebenberg to honor
35 their vision in establishing the Florida Holocaust Museum and,
36 each year, recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding
37 contribution to the museum to allow it to continue to realize
38 its mission of promoting the recognition of the inherent worth
39 and dignity of human life in order to prevent future genocide,
40 and

41 WHEREAS, on April 19, 2010, Edie Loebenberg, a kind and
42 gentle soul, left this world, NOW, THEREFORE,

43

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

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46 That this legislative body does pause in its deliberations
47 to pay its respects to the memory of Edie Loebenberg and to
48 celebrate her passion for and commitment to ensuring that the
49 atrocities of the past will never be repeated in the future.