

HR 9019

2010

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution recognizing June 16, 2010, as "Budd Bell Day"  
3 in the State of Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander "Budd" Bell's impassioned  
6 advocacy on behalf of the state's most vulnerable citizens  
7 earned her the moniker the "conscience of Florida," and

8 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander, born in Winnipeg, Canada, on  
9 June 16, 1915, became the first woman president of her high  
10 school class, earned bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees  
11 in sociology, and moved to Florida in 1969 with her husband,  
12 William Bell, where she continued her lifelong dedication to  
13 improving the lives of children, elders, and people with  
14 disabilities or mental illness, and

15 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander Bell was nicknamed "Buddha,"  
16 later shortened to "Budd," when, as a teenager and a counselor  
17 at a camp for disabled children, she provided leadership and  
18 guidance to other counselors while sitting under a tree, cross-  
19 legged, reminiscent of the Buddha, discussing issues relating to  
20 justice for the disadvantaged, and

21 WHEREAS, in 1972, Budd Bell, after persuading the  
22 Legislature to match the funding provided by the Federal  
23 Government for child care for low-income families, founded Kids  
24 Incorporated of the Big Bend, Florida's first subsidized child  
25 care center, and

26 WHEREAS, in 1974, Budd Bell established what is now known  
27 as the Budd Bell Clearinghouse on Human Services, an advocacy  
28 coalition of over 200 member organizations devoted to providing

HR 9019

2010

29 human services, and was a founder of the Florida Center for  
 30 Children and Youth and the state's Human Rights Advocacy  
 31 Committees, which have advocated for human services clients  
 32 since 1975, and

33 WHEREAS, Budd Bell was instrumental in drafting Florida's  
 34 involuntary commitment law, the Baker Act, to protect the  
 35 mentally ill from being held against their will in locked  
 36 hospitals, and

37 WHEREAS, Budd Bell was a founding member of the National  
 38 Association of Social Workers, and

39 WHEREAS, in 1998, Budd Bell received the Allstate Good  
 40 Hands Award, presented to her by General Colin Powell, for her  
 41 dedication to volunteer advocacy, and

42 WHEREAS, Budd Bell received honors and awards and achieved  
 43 milestones too numerous to mention in the advancement of human  
 44 social services, and

45 WHEREAS, Budd Bell sought to improve the quality of life of  
 46 all Floridians throughout the 77 years she spent as an advocate  
 47 for human services, NOW, THEREFORE,

48  
 49 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 50 Florida:

51  
 52 That June 16, 2010, is recognized as "Budd Bell Day" in the  
 53 State of Florida.