

By Senator Hays

11-02201A-13

20131782

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 4, 2013, as "Guardian ad Litem Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the guardian ad litem program represents the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in dependency court proceedings, and

WHEREAS, more than 9,000 dedicated and talented Floridians serve as volunteers for the guardian ad litem program, and

WHEREAS, studies show that children who have a volunteer guardian ad litem receive more services and are half as likely to return to foster care, and

WHEREAS, not only do guardian ad litem volunteers advocate for a child's best interest, but they also serve as educational advocates and mentors, and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, the guardian ad litem program has enhanced Florida communities through public and private partnerships that allowed the program to expand, and

WHEREAS, the guardian ad litem program received the 2012 Prudential-Davis Productivity Eagle Award which recognized it as a leader among public agencies in productivity and for saving money for Florida taxpayers and businesses, and

WHEREAS, the guardian ad litem program strives to achieve permanency for children in the dependency system, and was recognized by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute with its Angels in Adoption Award for excellence in finding "forever families" for children in the foster care system, and

WHEREAS, *Florida Trend* called the program, ". . .an elegant combination of effectiveness and accountability, of individuals

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30 joining hands with government to give a voice to innocent kids
31 who are suffering through no fault of their own," NOW,
32 THEREFORE,

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

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36 That we extend thanks and best wishes to all who serve as
37 guardians ad litem and recognize April 4, 2013, as "Guardian ad
38 Litem Day" in Florida.