

HR 9145

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Earnest W. Sumner, Sergeant at
3 Arms of the Florida House of Representatives.

4
5 WHEREAS, born on July 8, 1951, in Quincy, Earnest W. Sumner
6 graduated from Tallahassee Junior College and, in 1981, earned a
7 Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Florida State
8 University, and

9 WHEREAS, Earnest W. Sumner began his career with the
10 Florida House of Representatives in 1971 as an OPS employee, was
11 named Sergeant at Arms by Speaker Daniel Webster in 1998, and
12 has faithfully and loyally served the House of Representatives
13 for 138 legislative sessions, and

14 WHEREAS, while serving the Florida House of Representatives
15 as its Sergeant at Arms, Earnest W. Sumner has represented this
16 state before such organizations as the National Conference of
17 State Legislatures (NCSL) and has been recognized with numerous
18 service awards, including the NCSL Legislative Staff Achievement
19 Award, the John Everhardt "Trooper" Award, and the Tony Beard
20 Memorial Award, and

21 WHEREAS, known for his expert ability to coordinate the
22 details of office moves, construction, renovation, repair,
23 relocations, travel logistics, and security; his longstanding
24 relationships with state and local law enforcement; and his
25 consistent promotion of good will among not only his staff but
26 also the Members and employees of the Florida House of
27 Representatives, Earnest W. Sumner has maintained order within
28 the Chamber, galleries, lobby, rooms, corridors, and passages of

HR 9145

2013

29 | the House of Representatives and has diligently overseen the
30 | security of the House and its Members while engaged in their
31 | constitutional duties, and

32 | WHEREAS, in addition to his exceptional professional
33 | service, Earnest W. Sumner has been active within his community
34 | as a member of the Boy Scouts of America Suwannee River Area
35 | Council and Ocklawaha District Boards of Directors, the Liberty
36 | County Recreation Advisory Board, the Liberty County Big Bend
37 | Hospice Advisory Council, the Liberty County Farm Bureau, and
38 | the Liberty County Senior Citizens Association, and

39 | WHEREAS, Earnest W. Sumner is a lay leader and has served
40 | on the board of trustees at Grace United Methodist Church, and
41 | along with his gospel band, Fortress, he has contributed his
42 | musical talents to performances at prisons, churches, and other
43 | community venues throughout the state, and

44 | WHEREAS, in 1972, Earnest W. Sumner married Janice Stokes,
45 | his high school sweetheart and singer in his former band, Purple
46 | Passion, and today the couple is blessed with four daughters,
47 | Hilary, Heather, Hannah, and Hayley, and seven grandchildren,
48 | Madison, Brady, Evy Jane, Noah, Reece, Ella Grace, and Georgia,
49 | NOW, THEREFORE,

50 |
51 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
52 | Florida:

53 |
54 | That Sergeant Earnest W. Sumner is honored for his
55 | invaluable friendship and counsel throughout more than 42 years
56 | of dedicated service to the Florida House of Representatives,

HR 9145

2013

57 | its Members, its staff, and the public, is heartily
58 | congratulated on the occasion of his retirement, and is extended
59 | sincerest best wishes in all his future endeavors.

60 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
61 | presented to Earnest W. Sumner, Sergeant at Arms, as a tangible
62 | token of the sentiments expressed herein.