

By Senator Latvala

20-00693-15

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Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing the heartfelt appreciation of the members of the Florida Senate to Donald Severance for his more than 15 years of service as Sergeant at Arms and nearly 40 years of total service to the Senate, and wishing Sergeant Severance and his family every happiness in his retirement.

WHEREAS, Donald Severance was born on September 24, 1954, in Live Oak and is a 1972 graduate of Suwannee High School, and

WHEREAS, Donald Severance attended Tallahassee Community College and the former Lively Law Enforcement Academy and received additional training in the United States Marshals Service State and Local Court program, at the noncommissioned officer's school of the Florida National Guard, and at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, where he was commissioned as a law enforcement officer, and

WHEREAS, Donald Severance is a veteran of the First Gulf War, having served during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and

WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1994, Donald Severance was a member of the Florida National Guard Rifle and Pistol Team, and retired from the Florida National Guard with a record of distinguished service to the State of Florida and the United States, and,

WHEREAS, Donald Severance continues his longstanding service as a member of the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary, where he is frequently called upon to aid his fellow citizens, and

WHEREAS, Donald Severance began his distinguished service

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30 as an employee of the Florida Senate in April 1976 as Assistant
31 Sergeant at Arms and subsequently served as an automated text
32 editor, a support services assistant, and a senior support
33 services assistant, and

34 WHEREAS, in February 1998, Donald Severance was named
35 Deputy Sergeant at Arms, serving under Sergeant at Arms Wayne W.
36 Todd, Jr., and

37 WHEREAS, in August 1999, Donald Severance was appointed by
38 then-Senate President Toni Jennings as Sergeant at Arms, a
39 position in which he has served with integrity and distinction
40 for more than 15 years, the third-longest tenure in the history
41 of the position, and

42 WHEREAS, Donald Severance has honorably served under 21
43 Senate Presidents, serving 9 as Sergeant at Arms, and

44 WHEREAS, as Sergeant of Arms, Donald Severance has ensured
45 the security of the chamber, committee rooms, and the gallery of
46 the Senate and has overseen the management of the property of
47 the Senate, and

48 WHEREAS, Donald Severance treats everyone he meets with
49 kindness and respect and he will be greatly missed by the
50 members of this body and his extended Legislative family, NOW,
51 THEREFORE,

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

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55 That we express the heartfelt appreciation of the members
56 of the Florida Senate to Donald Severance for his more than 15
57 years of service as Sergeant at Arms and nearly 40 years of
58 total service to the Senate, and wish him, his wife, Sherry, and

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59 their daughter, Chelsey, every happiness in his retirement.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
61 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Sergeant at Arms
62 Donald Severance as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
63 Florida Senate.