

By Senator Benacquisto

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Senate Resolution

A resolution to recognize the lifetime achievements of legendary tennis coach Nicholas J. "Nick" Bollettieri.

WHEREAS, Nicholas J. "Nick" Bollettieri, president emeritus of IMG Academy in Bradenton, is one of the most influential people in the world of tennis, and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Nick Bollettieri created the academy model of training and founded the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy (NBTA) in Florida, which was the first full-time tennis boarding school to combine intense training on the court with a custom-designed academic curriculum, and

WHEREAS, NBTA successfully blended technical and strategic on-court tennis training with specialized physical and mental conditioning, an approach that not only builds athletes on the court, but also prepares them for a successful life off the court, and

WHEREAS, Nick Bollettieri used this method to coach 10 No. 1 players who are household names in the sport – Agassi, Becker, Courier, Hingis, Jankovic, Rios, Seles, Sharapova, and Venus and Serena Williams, as well as a multitude of other world-class players who include Nishikori, Haas, Kournikova, and Arias, and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Nick Bollettieri joined forces with IMG to turn NBTA into a multi-sport training facility known as IMG Academy, which spans 500 acres and trains more than 13,000 athletes from more than 75 countries annually, and

WHEREAS, IMG Academy is an economic force in Florida, bringing families to this great state, building businesses, and growing communities in and around Manatee County, and

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30 WHEREAS, now, at age 87, Nick Bollettieri still gets up at  
31 5 a.m. every day for a schedule of teaching, coaching, and  
32 overseeing the progress of numerous professional players, elite  
33 juniors, and academy groups, in addition to his traveling and  
34 public speaking, and

35 WHEREAS, honored with many tennis awards and accolades,  
36 Nick Bollettieri brings a passion, energy, and commitment to all  
37 he pursues, and he makes a special point to support programs for  
38 youth and charitable foundations that provide opportunities for  
39 less fortunate children, and

40 WHEREAS, through his work and his many accomplishments,  
41 Nick Bollettieri has proven that personal resilience, hard work,  
42 and a positive attitude form a winning foundation not only in  
43 tennis, but in life, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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47 That legendary tennis coach Nicholas J. "Nick" Bollettieri  
48 is recognized for his lifetime achievements.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
50 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Nicholas J.  
51 "Nick" Bollettieri as a tangible token of the sentiments of the  
52 Florida Senate.