

By Senator Broxson

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Florida's "hidden heroes,"  
3 the caregivers of ill or injured military  
4 servicemembers and veterans.  
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6 WHEREAS, a RAND Corporation study commissioned by the  
7 Elizabeth Dole Foundation shows that as a result of the series  
8 of wars and conflicts in which the United States has been  
9 engaged since World War II, 5.5 million individuals, including  
10 parents, spouses, siblings, and friends, are caregivers to ill  
11 or injured servicemembers and veterans, and

12 WHEREAS, the daily tasks of these caregivers, many of whom  
13 are employed outside the home to earn essential income, may  
14 include bathing, dressing, feeding, and caring for grievous  
15 injuries of and administering medications and providing  
16 emotional support to servicemembers and veterans, and

17 WHEREAS, the United States provides multifaceted support to  
18 ill and injured servicemembers and veterans through public,  
19 private, and philanthropic resources, but caregivers receive  
20 little support or acknowledgment despite research that shows an  
21 alarming number suffer debilitating mental, physical, and  
22 emotional effects as a result of their caregiving  
23 responsibilities, and

24 WHEREAS, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation established the  
25 Hidden Heroes campaign to raise awareness of the issues  
26 confronted daily by these caregivers and to inspire individuals,  
27 businesses, and community leaders to take action in supporting  
28 caregivers in their communities, and

29 WHEREAS, Alachua County, Gainesville, Jacksonville, and

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30 Winter Springs are currently registered as Hidden Heroes Cities,  
31 a growing nationwide network of cities and counties dedicated to  
32 recognizing and supporting caregivers of military servicemembers  
33 and veterans, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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37 That the caregivers of military servicemembers and veterans  
38 in the Hidden Heroes Cities of Alachua County, Gainesville,  
39 Jacksonville, and Winter Springs are recognized and commended  
40 for their selfless dedication to the challenging  
41 responsibilities of caring for those who have defended all  
42 Americans.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all caregivers of Florida's  
44 military servicemembers and veterans are encouraged to register  
45 with the Hidden Heroes program established by the Elizabeth Dole  
46 Foundation to become better connected to helpful resources and  
47 support.