

By Senator Hooper

16-04598-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution to remember the extraordinary life of Walter Loebenberg, founder of The Florida Holocaust Museum.

WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg was born on May 22, 1924, in Waechtersbach, Germany, and moved with his family to Frankfurt to escape the rising tide of antisemitism in his small hometown, and

WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg was forced to leave school and went to work as an apprentice in a bakery, and he and his family were in Frankfurt on Kristallnacht—the Night of the Broken Glass—in November of 1938, and

WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg immigrated to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island on May 22, 1939, his 15th birthday, and

WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg went on to serve in the European theater during World War II and fought at the Battle of the Bulge, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower personally presented him with a Bronze Star in recognition of his service, and

WHEREAS, after the war, Walter Loebenberg settled in Chicago, where he met and married his wife, Edie, and began a business career that spanned seven decades, and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Walter and Edie Loebenberg, who were married for nearly 62 years, settled in St. Petersburg, where they devoted their lives to family and community, and

WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg never forgot the victims of the Holocaust and their families and, in remembrance of those lost and shattered lives, he founded The Florida Holocaust Museum in 1992, which has kept alive the lessons of the past to help

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30 create a better future for all, and

31 WHEREAS, Walter Loebenberg died peacefully at home on
32 January 29, 2019, leaving behind three children, eight
33 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren and a legacy of
34 love and compassion, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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38 That the extraordinary life of Walter Loebenberg, founder
39 of The Florida Holocaust Museum, is remembered.