

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution expressing appreciation and gratitude to
3 Florida State University President John Thrasher upon
4 the completion of his exceptional tenure as the
5 university's 15th president and commending him for his
6 outstanding achievements and service.

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8 WHEREAS, John Thrasher entered Florida State University in
9 1961 as an undergraduate student and earned his bachelor's
10 degree in business in 1965, and

11 WHEREAS, in 1966, John Thrasher joined the United States
12 Army, serving first in Germany, where he received the Army
13 Commendation Medal, and later in Vietnam, where he was awarded
14 two Bronze Stars, and attained the rank of captain before his
15 honorable discharge in 1970, and

16 WHEREAS, John Thrasher earned a law degree with honors from
17 his alma mater in 1972, and

18 WHEREAS, from 1992 to 2000, John Thrasher served the people
19 in Florida as a member of the Florida House of Representatives
20 and during that time was instrumental in the creation of the
21 Florida State University College of Medicine, and

22 WHEREAS, on November 17, 1998, John Thrasher was
23 unanimously elected as Speaker of the Florida House of
24 Representatives for the 1998-2000 term, during which the

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25 legislature passed the "A+ Education Plan" and the largest tax
26 cut in Florida history, and

27 WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2014, John Thrasher was a member of
28 the Florida Senate, where he served as Chair of the Rules
29 Committee and Vice Chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Higher
30 Education Appropriations, and

31 WHEREAS, John Thrasher became the 15th President of Florida
32 State University in November 2014, and

33 WHEREAS, under John Thrasher's leadership, Florida State
34 University ranked among the Top 20 national public universities
35 in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges guides in 2020 and
36 2021, and

37 WHEREAS, the university's 4-year graduation rate under John
38 Thrasher's tenure is first in the State of Florida and among the
39 best in the country, virtually erasing the graduation rate gaps
40 between the general population and underserved students, and

41 WHEREAS, the university's retention rate of first-year
42 students is well above the national average for 4-year public
43 institutions, and 95 percent of the university's freshmen who
44 enrolled in the 2019 summer and fall semesters returned for
45 their sophomore year, and

46 WHEREAS, graduate school enrollment, a hallmark of any
47 great research university, is also at an all-time high, with
48 enrollment in graduate programs increased by 23 percent in the
49 2020 fall semester, a rate far surpassing the university's goal

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50 of 3 percent annual growth, and

51 WHEREAS, John Thrasher has received numerous honors and
52 awards in recognition of his leadership and service, including
53 inductions into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2017 and
54 the Florida State University College of Business Hall of Fame in
55 2016, the NASPA Region III President's Award, the Tallahassee
56 Urban League Legend Award, and the recognition as the
57 Tallahassee Democrat's Person of the Year in 2015, and

58 WHEREAS, John Thrasher has also presided over a successful
59 \$1 billion fundraising campaign for the university, and

60 WHEREAS, as Florida State University President, John
61 Thrasher helped advance the school's academic and research
62 mission, championed diversity and inclusion, and welcomed the
63 best and brightest students in the school's history, and

64 WHEREAS, John Thrasher has spent the past 55 years in
65 service to the United States, the State of Florida, and Florida
66 State University, NOW, THEREFORE,

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68 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
69 Florida:

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71 That the Florida House of Representatives expresses its
72 appreciation and gratitude to Florida State University President
73 John Thrasher upon the completion of his exceptional tenure as

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74 | the university's 15th president and commends him for his
75 | outstanding achievements and service.

76 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
77 | presented to President John Thrasher as a tangible token of the
78 | sentiments expressed herein.