

By Senator Garcia

37-00721-22

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution expressing the gratitude of the Florida
3 Senate to the valiant men and women of the urban
4 search and rescue teams who worked tirelessly in the
5 search for and recovery of victims of the Champlain
6 Towers Condominium collapse.

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8 WHEREAS, built in 1981, the Champlain Towers Condominium in
9 Surfside consisted of three 12-story buildings overlooking the
10 Atlantic Ocean, with a total of 345 units, and

11 WHEREAS, at approximately 1:30 a.m. on June 24, 2021,
12 Champlain Towers South partially collapsed, resulting in mass
13 casualties, and

14 WHEREAS, the Champlain Towers Condominium collapse was one
15 of the worst disasters in the history of this state and involved
16 the third-largest building failure in the history of this
17 nation, and

18 WHEREAS, more than 800 members from state and federal task
19 forces worked grueling 12-hour shifts at the site, with nearly
20 400 of those urban search and rescue team members from this
21 state, and

22 WHEREAS, these first responders worked for 29 days in the
23 worst conditions imaginable, including falling debris, fires,
24 rain, and tropical-storm-force winds, and

25 WHEREAS, team members combed through more than 14,230 tons
26 of debris at the Champlain Towers Condominium site in the search
27 for survivors and, as the days passed, for the remains of those
28 who died in the collapse, and

29 WHEREAS, four people were rescued from the rubble of the

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30 partially collapsed condominium, one of whom later died, with 11
31 others injured, and about 35 people were rescued the same day
32 from the uncollapsed portion of the building, which was
33 demolished 10 days later, and

34 WHEREAS, 98 people died in the Champlain Towers Condominium
35 collapse, and it is through the heroic efforts of the urban
36 search and rescue team members that their families were able to
37 recover their remains and lay them to rest, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 That the gratitude of the Florida Senate is expressed to
42 the valiant men and women of the urban search and rescue teams
43 who worked tirelessly in the search for and recovery of victims
44 of the Champlain Towers Condominium collapse.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the heroic efforts of the
46 following search and rescue teams are recognized: Miami-Dade
47 Fire Rescue, City of Miami Fire Department, Hillsborough County
48 Fire Rescue, Central Florida Urban Search and Rescue,
49 Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department, Southwest Florida Urban
50 Search and Rescue, Tallahassee Fire Department, Marion County
51 Fire Rescue, Virginia Beach (Virginia) Fire Department, Dayton
52 (Ohio) Fire Department, Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Fire
53 Department, City of Indianapolis (Indiana) Department of Public
54 Safety, and New Jersey State Police.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
56 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to each of the
57 named teams as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
58 Senate.