

By Senator Pizzo

37-02262-25

20251856\_\_

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing and celebrating the life and legacy of Senator Geraldine F. "Geri" Thompson.

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 18, 1948, and

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson was raised in Miami-Dade County, in the town of Perrine, where she witnessed the hard work and dedication of her family, who held careers in the construction and agriculture industries and whose example shaped her commitment to living a life of service, justice, and empowerment of others, and

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 1970 and a Master of Science degree from the Florida State University in 1973, and

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson held multiple instructional and administrative leadership roles over the course of her impressive career, including serving as a teacher in Orange County Public Schools for 6 years and as an administrator at Valencia Community College for 24 years, where she established the College Reach-Out Program, enabling thousands of low-income and disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of attending college, and

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson served with distinction in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2012 for District 39 and from 2018 to 2022 for District 44, and

WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 and served until 2016 for District 12 and

37-02262-25

20251856\_\_

30 was reelected in 2022 and served District 15 until her death  
31 February 13, 2025, and

32 WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson made significant  
33 contributions toward African-American history, including  
34 authoring the book *Black America: Orlando, Florida* and founding  
35 the Wells' Built Museum of African American History and Culture,  
36 a museum preserving African Art and memorabilia of the Civil  
37 Rights Movement, located in Parramore, and

38 WHEREAS, Senator Geraldine F. Thompson was a politician as  
39 well as a devoted wife to the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson,  
40 Jr.; a mother of three children, Laurise, Emerson III, and  
41 Elizabeth; a grandmother of six, Jasmyne, Imani, Kiara, Symone,  
42 Jacqueline, and Julia; and a great-grandmother, and

43 WHEREAS, her love, wisdom, and compassion touched countless  
44 individuals throughout the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

45

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

47

48 That on this day, March 13, 2025, the Florida Senate fondly  
49 remembers and commemorates the life and legacy of its esteemed  
50 colleague, Senator Geraldine F. "Geri" Thompson, who diligently  
51 and lovingly served the people of Florida.