

By Representative Flanagan

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Bruce Meade, national  
3 softball Hall of Famer and Manatee County  
4 Sheriff's Deputy.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Sheriff's Deputy Bruce Meade was honored on  
7 his 50th birthday, September 1, 1999, with the observance of  
8 "Bruce Meade Day in Manatee County," and

9 WHEREAS, having taken up softball as a fifth-grader,  
10 only to abandon it for football and javelin and discus  
11 throwing in high school and college, Bruce Meade returned to  
12 the sport in his junior year at East Tennessee State  
13 University and began what was to become a legendary career in  
14 softball, and

15 WHEREAS, having been urged to join a softball league  
16 after his return to Manatee County in the 1970s, Bruce Meade  
17 is now known throughout the nation for his hitting prowess, is  
18 holder of the Amateur Softball Association All-Star world  
19 record for a home run of 510 feet, has made more than 3,500  
20 home runs during the peak of his career from 1974 to 1993, and  
21 was named an Amateur Softball Association All-Star 11 times,  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Bruce Meade is the first softball player to  
24 have had a day declared in his honor by the Governor of  
25 Oklahoma, who compared him to baseball great Mickey Mantle and  
26 multisport athlete Jim Thorpe, and his name has been adopted  
27 by several annual softball tournaments around the nation,  
28 including the "Bruce Meade Hall of Fame Classic" in Phoenix,  
29 Arizona, and

30 WHEREAS, Bruce Meade has been inducted into the United  
31 States Slow-pitch Softball Association Hall of Fame, the

1 National Softball Association Hall of Fame, and, as recently  
2 as July 3, 1999, the Amateur Softball Hall of Fame in Oklahoma  
3 City, and

4 WHEREAS, since his retirement from full-time softball  
5 in 1993, Bruce Meade still plays to assist charitable causes,  
6 especially those involving children, and is always ready to  
7 oblige those youngsters who seek his autograph and marvel at  
8 his hitting displays, and

9 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that nationally  
10 recognized softball player Bruce Meade be congratulated for  
11 his many accomplishments and the numerous honors he has  
12 received as a result of his softball career, and for his  
13 dedication as a sheriff's deputy in Manatee County, NOW,  
14 THEREFORE,

15  
16 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
17 Florida:

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19 That the Florida House of Representatives endorses the  
20 very deserving honor accorded Bruce Meade by the observance of  
21 "Bruce Meade Day in Manatee County" on the occasion of his  
22 50th birthday on September 1, 1999, and extends sincerest  
23 wishes in his continued endeavors.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
25 be presented to Sheriff's Deputy Bruce Meade as a tangible  
26 token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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