By Senator Saunders

37-59B-05

1	Senate Resolution No
2	A resolution recognizing the contributions of
3	Ann Olesky to the restoration of Lake Trafford
4	in Collier County, Florida.
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6	WHEREAS, campaigns to preserve the vigor and beauty of
7	the state's natural heritage are often inspired and led by
8	aware and dedicated state residents, and
9	WHEREAS, an outstanding example of environmental
10	activism was demonstrated through the leadership of Ann Olesky
11	in establishing and sustaining the effort to save Lake
12	Trafford, the largest natural lake south of Lake Okeechobee,
13	and
14	WHEREAS, Lake Trafford sustained massive environmental
15	damage in 1996 as a result of oxygen-depletion in the lake
16	caused by algae blooms from years of die-off of the exotic
17	hydrilla plant that thrived there, and
18	WHEREAS, living and working on the shore of Lake
19	Trafford, Ann Olesky was dismayed by the destruction of the
20	lake's ecosystem and, with her husband, Edward Olesky, at her
21	side, undertook an 8-year grassroots campaign to save the
22	lake, and
23	WHEREAS, faced with muck-removal estimates that
24	escalated to \$20 million, Ann began coordinating local
25	fundraising projects in the community of Immokalee which
26	raised \$32,000 for the lake's dredging, and
27	WHEREAS, Ann Olesky realized that ongoing involvement
28	by the community would be imperative to bring the necessary
29	governmental resources to the cleanup of the lake, therefore
30	she formed "Friends of Lake Trafford" in order to raise the
31	necessary support in Congress and in state government, and

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WHEREAS, Ann Olesky's tireless efforts led Congress in 2 1998 to include the lake in an authorization for critical restoration projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but 3 the funding for those projects was depleted before Lake 4 Trafford's restoration could be begun, and 5 6 WHEREAS, refusing to give up the campaign to save the 7 lake, Ann continued her lobbying efforts to reach out to 8 officials at every level of government and ultimately achieved the commitment of funds needed from the state and the South 9 Florida Water Management District, and 10 WHEREAS, a contract for the dredging of Lake Trafford 11 12 was finally signed just 2 days before the unanticipated death 13 of Ann Olesky on June 13, 2004, and WHEREAS, the loss of this vibrant and outstanding 14 community leader is deeply felt by thousands of Florida 15 residents and officials who witnessed her inspired efforts to 16 17 save Lake Trafford, and WHEREAS, her community has recognized and memorialized 18 Ann Olesky's service and leadership by renaming Lake Trafford 19 Park in Immokalee in her memory, NOW, THEREFORE, 20 21 22 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida: 23 That this body does pause in its deliberations to pay 2.4 its respects to the dedicated efforts and example of Ann 25 Olesky in her successful campaign to restore the environmental 26 27 health of Lake Trafford for present and future generations of 2.8 Floridians and to recognize the exemplary value of her work to 29 preserve Florida's ecosystem.