

By Senator Rodriguez

37-02982-17

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the extraordinary contribution of John W. Walsh in the fight against alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and remembering his life and legacy.

WHEREAS, John W. Walsh was born on February 4, 1949, in Arlington, Massachusetts, received a degree in political science from Norwich University, served as a staff assistant to the United States Senate, and served his country as an Army Ranger in the Army Special Forces Reserves, and

WHEREAS, John W. Walsh went on to become a successful business executive and real estate developer, and

WHEREAS, after his diagnosis with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, John W. Walsh waged a national and international campaign to heighten public awareness of lung disease, including alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), improve patient care, and support efforts to develop a cure, and

WHEREAS, John W. Walsh founded the Alpha-1 Foundation in 1995 and later established AlphaNet, a nonprofit health management company to provide services for people with the deficiency, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, John W. Walsh founded the COPD Foundation, an international organization dedicated to education, research, advocacy, and public awareness of COPD, and

WHEREAS, John W. Walsh gave those suffering from COPD and their families, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and researchers the gift of hope, and

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30 WHEREAS, thanks to the vision and leadership of John W.
31 Walsh, the State of Florida Alpha-1 Detection Program has led
32 the nation in detection of and early intervention in the disease
33 and in the education of Alpha-1 patients, and

34 WHEREAS, John W. Walsh, who died in Miami on March 7, 2017,
35 at the age of 68, was a giant in patient advocacy and was a
36 devoted husband, father, and grandfather who leaves behind an
37 enduring legacy of public health service and will be remembered
38 as a national champion and visionary for a cure for lung
39 disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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43 That the members of the Senate extend their heartfelt
44 sympathy to the family of John W. Walsh.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
46 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the family of
47 John W. Walsh as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
48 Florida Senate.