

By Senator Brodeur

10-02755-25

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the contributions made by  
Harris Rosen to the Central Florida community.

WHEREAS, Harris Rosen was President and Chief Operating  
Officer of Rosen Hotels & Resorts, a hospitality company he  
founded in 1974 which now includes three convention hotels and  
four leisure hotels, with more than 6,300 guest rooms and suites  
and 730,000 square feet of meeting space, and

WHEREAS, Harris Rosen grew up in a modest apartment in New  
York's Lower East Side with his parents, Jack and Lee, and his  
younger brother, Ron, and attended the High School of Music &  
Art in the Bronx and, later, Cornell University, where he  
obtained a degree in hospitality management, and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Harris Rosen joined the United  
States Army and served for more than 3 years before beginning  
his career in hospitality as a convention salesman for the  
Waldorf Astoria in New York City, and

WHEREAS, Harris Rosen rose to management level, working for  
the Hilton Hotels Corporation in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cape  
Kennedy, and Dallas, and

WHEREAS, when hired by the Walt Disney Company to help with  
its major development in Florida, Harris Rosen created a central  
reservation system for Disney's hotels, and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Harris Rosen used his savings to purchase  
a 256-room Quality Inn hotel in Orlando, and, after converting  
two rooms into an office and a small apartment, he lived on the  
premises and took charge of every aspect of the facility, from  
cleaning and gardening to working the front desk, and

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WHEREAS, Harris Rosen went on to acquire six additional hotels, the Rosen Inn near Universal Studios Florida, the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando, the Rosen Inn Lake Buena Vista, the Rosen Plaza, the Rosen Centre, and the Rosen Shingle Creek, and

WHEREAS, not only was Harris Rosen a successful hotelier, he was also a philanthropist and humanitarian who donated millions of dollars to multiple foundations and programs, including the education initiatives in Tangelo Park and Parramore, which provide free preschool programs and scholarships for colleges and vocational schools for children in those underserved communities; the University of Central Florida Rosen College of Hospitality Management, which trains students in hospitality and is ranked among the top hospitality schools in the world; the Jack and Lee Rosen Jewish Community Center in Southwest Orlando, which serves more than 200 children, from infancy to prekindergarten; the University of Florida Adam Michael Rosen Neuro-Oncology Laboratories, which houses multiple laboratories conducting research on brain tumor treatments; and the Rosen Aquatic & Fitness Center, which hosts swimming classes to prevent childhood drownings and is home to past and present Olympians, and

WHEREAS, Harris Rosen also took care of his employees and their families by creating RosenCare, an award-winning insurance plan that not only provides its members with comprehensive coverage, but also pays for 90 percent of all of their medications; and by establishing the Rosen Medical Center to offer his employees and their loved ones top-notch medical care and wellness programs, and

WHEREAS, for his phenomenal charitable works and

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59 contributions to improve the lives of residents in the Central  
60 Florida community, Harris Rosen received numerous awards,  
61 including the 2022 LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award from  
62 Leadership Florida, the 2022 United Negro College Fund Orlando  
63 Chapter Community Champion of Education Award, and the 2023 H.  
64 Clifford Lee Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of  
65 Fundraising Professionals, and

66 WHEREAS, Harris Rosen passed away at age 85 on November 25,  
67 2024, surrounded by his family and loved ones, NOW, THEREFORE,

68  
69 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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71 That the Senate recognizes the remarkable contributions  
72 made by hotelier and philanthropist Harris Rosen to the Central  
73 Florida community.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
75 presented to the family of Harris Rosen as a tangible token of  
76 the sentiments expressed herein.