

By Senator Sobel

31-00624-10

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 16, 2010, as "Budd Bell Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander "Budd" Bell's impassioned advocacy on behalf of the state's most vulnerable citizens earned her the moniker the "conscience of Florida," and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander, born in Winnipeg, Canada, on June 16, 1915, became the first woman president of her high school class, earned bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in sociology, and moved to Florida in 1969 with her husband, William Bell, where she continued her lifelong dedication to improving the lives of children, elders, and people with disabilities or mental illness, and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lander Bell was nicknamed "Buddha," later shortened to "Budd," when, as a teenager and a counselor at a camp for disabled children, she provided leadership and guidance to other counselors while sitting under a tree, cross-legged, reminiscent of the Buddha, discussing issues relating to justice for the disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Budd Bell, after persuading the Legislature to match the funding provided by the Federal Government for child care for low-income families, founded Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend, Florida's first subsidized child care center, and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Budd Bell established what is now known as the Budd Bell Clearinghouse on Human Services, an advocacy coalition of over 200 member organizations devoted to providing human services, and was a founder of the Florida Center for

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30 Children and Youth and the state's Human Rights Advocacy
31 Committees, which have advocated for human services clients
32 since 1975, and

33 WHEREAS, Budd Bell was instrumental in drafting Florida's
34 involuntary commitment law, the Baker Act, to protect the
35 mentally ill from being held against their will in locked
36 hospitals, and

37 WHEREAS, Budd Bell was a founding member of the National
38 Association of Social Workers, and

39 WHEREAS, in 1998, Budd Bell received the Allstate Good
40 Hands Award, presented to her by General Colin Powell, for her
41 dedication to volunteer advocacy, and

42 WHEREAS, Budd Bell received honors and awards and achieved
43 milestones too numerous to mention in the advancement of human
44 social services, and

45 WHEREAS, Budd Bell sought to improve the quality of life of
46 all Floridians throughout the 77 years she spent as an advocate
47 for human services, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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51 That June 16, 2010, is recognized as "Budd Bell Day" in the
52 State of Florida.