

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1021**

**TITLE: Resolution Honoring the Life of Ralph Turlington**

**AUTHOR(S): Judiciary Chairman Noah Fineberg, Senate President Pro-Tempore Blake Robinson, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Annabelle Groux, Majority Party Leader Jason Scheuer**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Olivia Green, Member-at-Large Catherine Giordano, Senator Casey Mason, Senator Madi Koukos, Budget and Appropriations Chairwoman Elizabeth Hartzog, Senate President Franco Luis**

**WHEREAS**, Ralph Turlington passed away at the age of 100 on Friday, May 14, 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ralph Turlington was born in Gainesville, Florida and was a member of the inaugural class of the P. K. Yonge Developmental Research School; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ralph Turlington graduated from the University of Florida where he served as the business manager for The Alligator and was tapped into Florida Blue Key<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1950 Ralph Turlington was elected to represent Alachua County in the Florida House of Representatives where he was reelected 11 times<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Ralph Turlington served as Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives from 1967-1968<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, as a state representative he secured the initial funding for what is now UF Health Shands Hospital; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Rubin Askew appointed Ralph Turlington as the Florida Commissioner of Education in 1973<sup>4</sup>, a position he would be reelected to until his retirement in 1986; and,

**WHEREAS**, as Education Commissioner Ralph Turlington led a successful effort to establish the Florida Lottery to fund education; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate honors the life and contributions of Ralph Turlington.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the impact he had on the University campus and the Gainesville community.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Florida Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Chris Sprowls*

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<sup>1</sup> [Ralph Turlington, former commissioner of education and force in FL politics, dies at 100](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ALACHUA - \(created 1824\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/turlington.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/turlington.htm>