

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1209**

**TITLE: Resolution Petitioning for a Student Government Supported Annual Commemoration Vigil in Memory of the Lives Lost in the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Aditi Sarkar, Senator Noor Azeem**

**SPONSOR(S): Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer, Senator Vivienne Serret, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Shawn Kapersaud**

**WHEREAS**, the lives of Alyssa Alhadeff (14), Scott Beigel (35), Martin Duque Anguiano (14), Nicholas Dworet (17), Aaron Feis (37), Jaime Guttenberg (14), Chris Hixon (49), Luke Hoyer (15), Cara Loughran (14), Gina Rose Montalto (14), Joaquin Oliver (17), Alaina Joann Petty (14), Meadow Jade Pollack (18), Helena Freja Ramsay (17), Alex Schachter (14), Carmen Schentrup (16), and Peter Wang (15) were lost on February 14th, 2018 [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Valentine’s Day is also known as a day of remembrance and mourning for the lives of both students and staff lost in the tragic shooting that occurred in Parkland’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School; and,

**WHEREAS**, a large and impactful vigil of over 1,000 Parkland residents and individuals occurred on Thursday, February 15th, 2018, remembering the greatness and innocence of the lost individuals [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Carmen Schentrup was accepted into the University of Florida and was planning on attending through the University Honor Program, yet such aspirations were stripped away due to the occurrence of gun violence in Parkland, Florida [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of 2018, more than 4,600 students from Broward County were enrolled at UF, more than any other county, and nearly 22,000 UF alumni were living in that area [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the President of the University of Florida stated that the University was resolved to offer any support and assistance that was needed on campus after the shooting occurred [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Central Florida Student Government supports and promotes their university’s annual commemoration vigil, which occurs in a central part of their campus every February 14th [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, such vigils serve as a space of spiritual relief and commemoration for University students impacted by tragic events [4]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate aims to create a safe space to mourn and remember the lives lost on February 14th, 2018.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the lasting impact that such a devastating event has on the wellness of both students and staff and drives to alleviate such effects through University provided safe spaces.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the urgent need for an annual commemoration vigil that the Student Government at the University of Florida supports and promotes, in remembrance of the lives of students and staff lost within the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Shooting.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, UF Provost Dr. J. Scott Angle, UF Vice President of Student Life Dr. Heather White, UF Student Body President Olivia Green, Families of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Victims, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Principal Ms. Michelle Kefford, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Assistant Principals: Anna Koltunova, Jay Milmed, Sandra Davis, Kristine Knapp, Lisa Farris, Robert Johnson*

[1]<https://abcnews.go.com/US/teacher-coach14-year-freshman-florida-high-school-massacre/story?id=53092879>

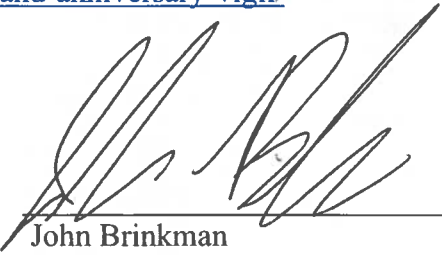
[2]<https://time.com/parkland-high-school-shooting-vigil/>

[3]<https://statements.ufl.edu/statements/2018/02/president-fuchs-offers-support-to-broward-county-gators-following-shooting.html>

[4]<https://monumentsofvictoria.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-holding-a-vigil/#:~:text=Vigils%20are%20often%20held%20in,by%20sudden%20death%20or%20tragedy.>

[5]<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/news/local/2018/02/21/douglas-victim-was-to-attend/7351749007/>

[6]<https://events.ucf.edu/event/1599116/parkland-anniversary-vigil/>

  
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John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
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Date