

# Florida Senate Resolution

By Senator Margolis

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*A resolution recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., and its extraordinary efforts on behalf of individuals and families whose lives are touched by vision impairment.*

*WHEREAS, in 1931, Dolly Gamble, inspired and encouraged by Helen Keller, established the Florida Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc., in a 900-square-foot bungalow in what is now East Little Havana in Miami, and*

*WHEREAS, through the 1940s, the organization, then known as Miami Lighthouse, served the blind community in Miami as a sheltered workshop, the accepted practice at that time, offering chair caning, basketry, and other crafts, and*

*WHEREAS, when the University of Miami envisioned creation of a state-of-the-art institute for diseases and disorders affecting vision, Miami Lighthouse donated \$500,000 as seed money for the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and donated land to the University of Miami School of Medicine, and*

*WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Miami Lighthouse changed its model to one centered on rehabilitation services that enable blind and visually impaired individuals to achieve independence, and*

*WHEREAS, in 1978, Miami Lighthouse received accreditation from an organization created by Congress and now known as the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services, and has continuously met the council's rigorous accreditation standards ever since, and*

*WHEREAS, in 2001, a public capital campaign made possible a major expansion to the original facility, which added a second-floor wing that houses computer laboratories, space for vocational training, and a sensory and tactile garden area, and*

*WHEREAS, in 2003, the organization changed its corporate name to Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., to reflect the services it provides to individuals affected by uncorrectable low vision, and*

*WHEREAS, in 2005, Virginia A. Jacko, an experienced business executive who was losing her sight to retinitis pigmentosa, was selected president and CEO, and, under her leadership, many innovative programs have been launched, and*

*WHEREAS, in 2008, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., was one of 50 institutions in the nation to receive the Healthy Vision Community Award from the National Eye Institute, and, in 2010 won the award a second time, and*

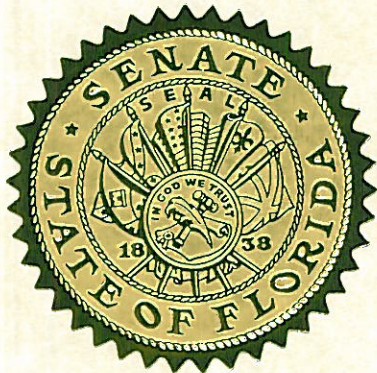
*WHEREAS, in 2010, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., received the Diamond Award from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce for excellence and commitment to the community, and*

WHEREAS, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., is enriching the lives of countless Floridians, from babies to seniors, championing programs in Braille literacy, music, and the arts, and ensuring that schoolchildren statewide have access to high-quality vision services, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Florida Senate recognizes the outstanding achievements of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., and its extraordinary efforts on behalf of individuals and families whose lives are touched by vision impairment.

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This is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 890, adopted by the Florida Senate on January 18, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Haridopolos", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Haridopolos  
President of the Senate

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debbie Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Debbie Brown  
Secretary of the Senate