

Senate Resolution 978

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd, Cagle of the 49th and Price of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Marinel Thrasher Wood; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Marinel Thrasher Wood, a student at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia,
3 speaks frequently to groups of teenagers, particularly those who are 16 and about to receive
4 their drivers' licenses; and

5 WHEREAS, she spoke at the invitation of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on Safe
6 Driver Awareness Day at the Capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, she speaks eloquently of the consequences of a tragic car accident, which killed
8 one passenger, sent the driver to jail for 27 months, and injured her brain so severely that she
9 was in a coma for 28 days, and spent more than 10 months in hospitals and in a rehabilitation
10 facility; and

11 WHEREAS, when she recounts the accident that she can't remember because of the damage
12 to her brain, she takes full responsibility for a "stupid decision" to ride with a driver who
13 drove too fast after drinking "only two beers" and lost control of the car at 80 miles an hour;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, if courage is grace under pressure, this young woman has exhibited courage in
16 abundance during years of relearning to talk, walk, speak, and care for herself and
17 confronting the daily reality that the human brain heals slowly, taking as long as nine years
18 to recover from severe trauma; and

19 WHEREAS, in her determination to tell other young people about the possible consequences
20 of risking their lives, health, and liberty by drinking, driving, and racing she shows an
21 admirable character and exemplary concern for others; and

1 WHEREAS, her parents, Mary Beth Wood and Joe T. Wood, Jr., had reason to be proud of
2 their daughter, who was an honor student and captain of the cheerleading team at Lakeview
3 Academy before the accident, and have even more reason to be proud of her now.

4

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
6 commend Marinel Thrasher Wood for her courageous work in recovering from injuries that
7 would have overwhelmed a lesser person and in warning others about the tragic
8 consequences of risky behavior.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Marinel Thrasher Wood.