

House Resolution 996

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176th, Carter of the 175th, Black of the 174th, Roberts of the 154th, and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Head Coach Tommy Thomas on the occasion of his 40th season as the
2 Valdosta State University Head Baseball Coach; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Head Coach Tommy Thomas has been a stalwart presence in the Valdosta State
4 dugout for 40 amazing seasons as the Blazers' head baseball coach; and

5 WHEREAS, during his 39 years of service, the senior statesman of the Valdosta State
6 University Athletic Department has become a legend in ranks of great baseball coaches,
7 posting an astounding NCAA Division II record of over 1,300 wins and accumulating a
8 0.618 career winning percentage; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to having 34 winning seasons, Head Coach Tommy Thomas led
10 Valdosta State to the school's first national championship in any sport in 1979, and he has
11 directed his teams in 25 post-season appearances and eight trips to the national tournament,
12 winning two Gulf South Conference (GSC) Tournament titles and two GSC Divisional titles;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, he is one of only six Division II coaches ever to surpass the 1,000 win barrier,
15 a feat he accomplished on April 25, 1997, when Valdosta State University defeated West
16 Georgia 9-2 in the GSC tournament; and

17 WHEREAS, he was named the American Baseball Coaches Association National Coach of
18 the Year in 1979, the GSC's Coach of the Year in 1995 and 2002, the regional coach of the
19 year on seven occasions, and he was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches
20 Association Hall of Fame in 2006; and

21 WHEREAS, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Valdosta State
22 University in 1962 and was a star of the baseball team he would later coach, recording a
23 career 0.316 batting average; and

1 WHEREAS, he earned a Master's in Teaching from Georgia Southern in 1966 and returned
2 to his alma mater the following year, where, in addition to his coaching duties, he served as
3 a professor in the school's Kinesiology and Physical Education Department for 37 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Head Coach Thomas has the most wins in the history of Division II baseball,
5 and he continues to serve the Valdosta State University community with the highest degree
6 of dedication and expertise.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body heartily commend the outstanding accomplishments of Head Coach
9 Tommy Thomas on the occasion of his 40th season as the Valdosta State University Head
10 Baseball Coach and extend to him their sincerest best wishes for his future.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Head Coach Tommy
13 Thomas.