

H. Res. 336

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

January 29, 2002.

Whereas the House of Representatives has learned with great sadness of the death of Dave Thomas from liver cancer at the age of 69 on January 8, 2002;

Whereas Dave Thomas, born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on July 2, 1932, and adopted shortly thereafter by Rex and Auleva Thomas, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was a lifelong advocate and activist for the cause of adoption;

Whereas Dave Thomas, in 1979, was awarded the Horatio Alger Award for dedication, individual initiative, and a commitment to excellence, as exemplified by remarkable achievements accomplished through honesty, hard work, self-reliance, and perseverance;

Whereas from 1990 until 2000 Dave Thomas was the national spokesman for numerous White House adoption and foster care initiatives;

Whereas Dave Thomas received numerous awards, including the Angel in Adoption Award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, for generating awareness of the thousands of children waiting for permanent homes and loving families;

Whereas Dave Thomas, in 1992, established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and donated his speaking

fees and profits from sales of his books, “Dave’s Way, Well Done!” and “Franchising for Dummies”, to adoption causes;

Whereas Dave Thomas established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to work with national adoption organizations, individuals, and public and private agencies to raise awareness about children awaiting adoption and to provide direct support for programs seeking to find permanent homes for children in foster care;

Whereas Dave Thomas established the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law to ease and facilitate the adoption process through education, advocacy, and research;

Whereas Dave Thomas was a constructive force in shaping corporate health policy to cover adoption expenses and, through his efforts, 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies now offer adoption benefits to their employees;

Whereas Dave Thomas received the 2001 Social Awareness Award from the United States Postal Service for being instrumental in the use of the Adoption Awareness postage stamp as a vehicle for highlighting the cause of adoption;

Whereas Dave Thomas founded Wendy’s Old-Fashioned Hamburgers in Columbus, Ohio, on November 15, 1969, and transformed it into one of the most successful food franchises in the country and, in promoting Wendy’s, became a national figure representing a friendly face, good food, and a kind sense of humor;

Whereas Dave Thomas, in 1993, 45 years after leaving school, earned his GED certificate and received his high school diploma from Coconut Creek High School in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida, securing him as role model to students of all ages; and

Whereas Dave Thomas used his financial success to promote and advance the cause of adoption: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that America has lost one of its most dedicated and hardest working advocates for adoption, and honors him in his devotion to family, life, and business; and

(2) expresses its deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of Dave Thomas on their loss.

Attest:

Clerk.