

House Resolution

No. 79

Introduced by Assembly Member Wesson

July 22, 2002

House Resolution No. 79—Relative to commending the Honorable Helen Thomson.

1 WHEREAS, The tenure of the Honorable Helen MacLeod
2 Thomson with the California State Assembly is drawing to a close
3 following six years of exemplary service, and it is appropriate at
4 this time to highlight the many achievements of her illustrious
5 tenure and to extend to her the highest commendations of the
6 people of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Helen Thomson was first elected in 1996 to
8 represent the 8th Assembly District, which includes communities
9 along the Interstate 80 Corridor and Sacramento River Delta,
10 comprising most of Yolo and Solano Counties and a portion of
11 Sacramento County, and was elected to her third term on
12 November 7, 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, Since taking public office, Assembly Member
14 Thomson has established a strong legislative record in health care,
15 mental health, water, public education, transportation, and local
16 government finance; and

17 WHEREAS, She has served as majority floor whip and
18 Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore, and brings credit to herself
19 through her leadership as Chair of the Assembly Health
20 Committee and the Select Committee on Mental Health, and as a
21 member of four Assembly Standing Committees: Agriculture,
22 Business and Professions, Local Government, and Water, Parks

1 and Wildlife, as a member of the Joint Legislative Sunset Review
2 Committee, and as an ex-officio member of the Delta Protection
3 Commission; and

4 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Thomson has established
5 herself as one of the Legislature’s most effective legislators;
6 during her first five years in the State Assembly, she authored more
7 bills signed into law by both Democratic and Republican
8 governors than any other Assembly Member, and most notably,
9 she authored Assembly Bill 88, the mental health parity bill, which
10 ends the historic discrimination in insurance benefits for those who
11 suffer from severe mental illnesses; and

12 WHEREAS, In recognition of her legislative accomplishments,
13 she has been the recipient of several awards of distinction
14 including the American Psychiatric Association’s Jacob K. Javits
15 Public Service Award, the Distinguished Legislator Award of the
16 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, SACOG’s Elected Official
17 of the Year, the CSAC President’s Award, the California
18 Healthcare Association’s Health Policy Leader Award, the
19 National Easter Seals Outstanding Advocate Award, the
20 Distinguished Service Award of the Urban Counties Caucus, the
21 Public Health Hero Award, the Water Reuse Award, the Super Star
22 Award of the Child, Adolescent, and Maternal Health Care
23 Advocates, the California Veterinary Association’s Gentle Doctor
24 Award, and the Tony Hoffman Award from the National Alliance
25 for the Mentally Ill, California, and myriad organizations have
26 honored her with Legislator of the Year Awards; and

27 WHEREAS, Helen Thomson was first elected to public office
28 in 1974 as a member of the Davis Joint Unified School District
29 Board of Education, and in 1986 was elected to the Yolo County
30 Board of Supervisors where she was subsequently reelected in
31 1990 and 1994; and

32 WHEREAS, During her tenure as a Supervisor, she served on
33 a variety of local and statewide boards, including a term as
34 President of the California Elected Women’s Association and First
35 Vice President of the California State Association of Counties; and

36 WHEREAS, A registered nurse since 1961 Helen Thomson is
37 married to Captane P. Thomson, M.D., and is the mother of three
38 adult children, all graduates of California public schools and
39 universities, and the Thomsons reside in Davis; and



1 WHEREAS, Through her public service activities she has made
2 a significant impact on the people of the 8th Assembly District and
3 throughout the state, and she will be greatly missed by those
4 individuals with whom she has been associated; now, therefore, be
5 it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
7 Members express their commendations and appreciation to their
8 colleague, the Honorable Helen Thomson, for her outstanding
9 record of dedicated service to her constituents and to all of the
10 people of California, and convey to her best wishes for every
11 success in her future endeavors.

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