



NEWS

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BARNEY BARNETT HONORED BY GOVERNOR AND CABINET IN FIRST EVER SURPRISE CEREMONY

TALLAHASSEE — Governor Bush and the Florida Cabinet honored Barney Barnett of Publix Super Markets of Lakeland this week with a resolution recognizing him as an esteemed businessman, exemplary philanthropist, and dedicated civic leader across the state of Florida.

The resolution, a surprise to Mr. Barnett, who thought he was coming to Tallahassee to meet with cabinet members on tax issues, marks the first time the Governor said, that he's issued a resolution to someone who wasn't expecting it.

The resolution commends and congratulates Mr. Barnett "for his lifetime of public spirited service to Florida, notably the taxpayers of Florida, who so richly benefited and whose interests he successfully protected and advanced as Chairman of Florida TaxWatch over the past two years."

The Governor and Cabinet, along with some audience members, wore "I Love Barney" buttons, modeled after the Publix Super Market buttons that Mr. Barnett is always seen wearing on his jacket lapels.

Mr. Barnett is a 36 year veteran of Publix and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board and Vice President of Publix Super Markets Charities. He's also immediate past Chairman of Florida TaxWatch, a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan, government watchdog and research institute.

Mr. Barnett has volunteered his time and talent in numerous other key business and civic organizations, including service as Chairman of the Lakeland Economic Development Council; President of the Food Marketing Education Council; Leadership Chairman of the United Way of Central Florida; Board of Governors of the United Way of America; Chairman of the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland; Chairman of the Tampa Bay Partnership; Member of the Board of Trustees of his alma mater Florida Southern College; Board Member of the James Madison Institute; member of the Board of Directors of The Florida Council of 100; and Board member of Volunteers in Service for the Elderly.

The resolution honoring Mr. Barnett at Tuesday's cabinet meeting was sponsored by Charles Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Florida TaxWatch President Dominic M. Calabro presented Mr. Barnett with a Waterford crystal vase for his service to the citizens of Florida.

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Attached Picture Caption: *Governor Jeb Bush, Barney Barnett and Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson at Florida Cabinet ceremony honoring Barnett for service to Florida*

Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 26 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Our mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida Government. On the web at www.floridataxwatch.org