

By Representative Silver

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary
3 of The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens on
4 March 20, 1997.

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6 WHEREAS, during the first years of this century,
7 farmers from Japan were drawn to south Palm Beach County by
8 the lure of good land and a friendly climate, to settle in an
9 area known as Yamato Colony, and

10 WHEREAS, the existence of this colony of hard-working
11 farmers might have faded into obscurity had it not been for
12 the gifts of one of their number, George Sukeji Morikami, and

13 WHEREAS, in 1973, Mr. Morikami donated to the county
14 the first of several parcels of land, which, through his
15 generosity, eventually grew to 200 acres, and

16 WHEREAS, in 1977, there was dedicated on a portion of
17 that land The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, the only
18 museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to the
19 living culture of Japan, and

20 WHEREAS, because of expanding collections and ambitious
21 growth, a second building was opened in 1993, with current
22 plans calling for a 9-acre garden encircling Morikami Lake,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Morikami has been supported in part by the
25 monetary contributions and volunteer efforts of thousands of
26 Palm Beach County and Florida residents and, through its
27 classes and outreach programs, has served the residents and
28 visitors of Palm Beach and Florida for 20 years, and

29 WHEREAS, The Morikami serves as a symbol of Japanese
30 and American understanding and friendship, NOW, THEREFORE,
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1 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Florida:

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4 That the House of Representatives hereby recognizes
5 March 20, 1997, as the 20th anniversary of The Morikami Museum
6 and Japanese Gardens and extends its congratulations to the
7 Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department and The
8 Morikami, Inc.

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