

By Representative Bloom

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Edward Villella.

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4 WHEREAS, Edward Villella, one of America's most
5 celebrated dancers, has helped popularize dance both onstage
6 and off through his supreme artistry and professional
7 achievements, and

8 WHEREAS, born in 1936 in Bayside, New York, Edward
9 Villella entered the School of American Ballet at the age of
10 ten, and

11 WHEREAS, he established his leadership position in
12 dance when the New York City Ballet promoted him to first
13 soloist in 1958 and to principal dancer in 1960, and

14 WHEREAS, during the Ballet's golden age, Villella
15 worked with three of the 20th century's artistic geniuses,
16 George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and Igor Stravinsky, and

17 WHEREAS, Edward Villella had the distinction of being
18 the first American male dancer to perform with the Royal
19 Danish Ballet, and the only American ever asked to perform an
20 encore at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, and

21 WHEREAS, Villella danced for President Kennedy's
22 inauguration and also performed for Presidents Johnson, Nixon,
23 and Ford, and

24 WHEREAS, among Edward Villella's many honors are the
25 38th annual Capezio Dance Award, an Emmy Award for his
26 television production of "Harlequin," and the National Society
27 of Arts & Letters Award for Lifetime Achievement, and

28 WHEREAS, since 1985, he has been the Artistic Director
29 of the Miami City Ballet, helping the company reach worldwide
30 acclaim in little more than a decade, and

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1 WHEREAS, in 1997, this success was marked by his
2 induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, the state's
3 most prestigious cultural honor, and

4 WHEREAS, Edward Villella is recognized nationally and
5 internationally for his contributions to the field of
6 classical dance and arts-in-education, and

7 WHEREAS, he serves on the Board of the School of
8 American Ballet and is Heritage Chairman of Arts and Cultural
9 Criticism at George Mason University in Virginia, and

10 WHEREAS, previously he was chairman of the New York
11 City's Commission for Cultural Affairs, served on the National
12 Endowment of the Arts dance panels, the National Council on
13 the Arts, and the Wolf Trap Foundation Board, and

14 WHEREAS, on September 29, 1997, President Clinton
15 presented Edward Villella with a 1997 Medal of Arts, and

16 WHEREAS, established in 1984, the Medal of Arts honors
17 individuals and organizations "who in the President's judgment
18 are deserving of special recognition by reason of their
19 outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support,
20 and availability of the arts in the United States," and

21 WHEREAS, Villella returned to the White House on
22 December 7, 1997, as a recipient of a 1997 Kennedy Center
23 Honor, being recognized for his lifetime contribution to
24 American culture through the performing arts, and

25 WHEREAS, in receiving these awards, Edward Villella
26 became only the sixth artist to receive both the Kennedy
27 Center and the Medal of Arts honors in the same year, and

28 WHEREAS, an athlete and a poet, as well as an
29 extraordinarily persuasive performer and teacher, Edward
30 Villella is, after having the most spectacular career of any
31 American male dancer, exerting perhaps his strongest influence

1 by shaping the future of American dance as Artistic Director
2 of the Miami City Ballet, and

3 WHEREAS, the State of Florida, as the adopted state of
4 Edward Villella, feels a great sense of pride and gratitude
5 for the contributions Edward Villella has made to the world of
6 dance and the arts, NOW, THEREFORE,

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8 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
9 Florida:

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11 That the House of Representatives of the State of
12 Florida hereby honors Edward Villella, American artist.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
14 be presented to Edward Villella as a tangible token of the
15 sentiments expressed herein.

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