

By Senators Smith, Laurent, Campbell, Mitchell, Wasserman
Schultz, Holzendorf and Dyer

5-1978-02

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing the University of
Florida and celebrating March 6, 2002, as
University of Florida Day.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida was the first
institution in this state to achieve university status, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the state's
largest university, and one of the top five universities in
North America, with more than 46,000 students, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the most
comprehensive university in the state and one of the three
most academically diverse universities in the nation, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has earned
increasing prominence among nationally recognized research
universities since its admission nearly two decades ago to the
prestigious Association of American Universities, and remains
the only Florida institution so affiliated, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has awarded more
than 300,000 degrees and has more than 150,000 alumni living
in Florida, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has more National
Merit Scholars than any other institution in this state and
ranks in the top five in attracting these scholars among
public universities in the nation, and

WHEREAS, 17 University of Florida graduate or
undergraduate programs made a top-ten national ranking in the
latest U.S. News & World Report assessments, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida was awarded \$379
million in funding for sponsored research, and

1 WHEREAS, among many endeavors, University of Florida
2 researchers are integral participants in the international
3 search for a cure for cancer, the effort to unlock the
4 mysteries of the brain, the designing of the world's next
5 generation of microelectronics, and the building of bridges of
6 understanding between peoples of our world, and

7 WHEREAS, the University of Florida Health Science
8 Center is the most comprehensive academic health center in the
9 Southeast, encompassing six colleges, including Dentistry,
10 Health Professions Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Veterinary
11 Medicine and a statewide network of affiliated hospitals and
12 clinics, including Shands Hospital as the flagship teaching
13 hospital and the neighboring Veterans Affairs Medical Center
14 of Gainesville, and

15 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the state's
16 oldest land-grant university and is the only university with
17 extension programs in every county, plus at the Seminole
18 Tribe, and

19 WHEREAS, the University of Florida, through the
20 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences maintains an
21 active, people-directed program network reaching 1.5 million
22 participants and engaging almost 50,000 volunteers in urban
23 horticulture, youth and family development, nutrition
24 education, and natural resource enhancement throughout the
25 state, and

26 WHEREAS, the University of Florida has a total annual
27 economic impact of almost \$3.2 billion, more than six times
28 the state investment of \$511 million, and

29 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is one of this
30 state's leading cultural centers, which includes the Phillips
31 Center for the Performing Arts, the Samuel P. Harn Museum of

1 Art, and the Florida Natural History Museum, which now is
2 hosting the hugely popular "A Tyrannosaurus Named Sue"
3 exhibit, and

4 WHEREAS, the Northeastern area of the University of
5 Florida campus is listed as a Historic District on the
6 National Register of Historic Places, and

7 WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of the University of
8 Florida have recently shattered the initial 2001 University of
9 Florida Community Campaign goal by donating more than \$822,737
10 to local charities, NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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14 That March 6, 2002, is celebrated as University of
15 Florida Day in recognition of the University of Florida's
16 academic achievements, outstanding private support, and
17 service to the state.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution,
19 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
20 University of Florida as a tangible token of the sentiments of
21 the Florida Senate.

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