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House Resolution

A resolution designating February 19, 2002, as "Florida 4-H Day."

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WHEREAS, organized by the Florida Cooperative Extension System of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the Florida 4-H program performs an invaluable service through its part in preparing the state's youth for the workplace and encouraging them to become leaders, not only of tomorrow, but also of today, and

WHEREAS, there are 287,156 children 5 through 18 years of age and 17,404 volunteers in all 67 counties and on the Seminole Tribes reservations who participate in the Florida 4-H program, an effort that brings the resources of local, state, and federal governments together with committed citizens and private entities to provide activities, events, and projects designed to develop and strengthen skills and talents of the young participants, and

WHEREAS, the Florida 4-H program participants, who "learn by doing," are involved in a diverse array of projects, in areas ranging from computers and community service to animal science and xeriscaping, and

WHEREAS, through the Power of Youth Pledge Campaign, a program through which members pledge a chosen amount of time to an activity of their choice, Florida 4-H members devote thousands of hours of work on behalf of their schools, communities, and state, and

WHEREAS, the 2002 4-H state project, "Tales From Teens: A 4-H Literacy Initiative," encourages clubs and individual members to work toward promoting literacy in their communities by collecting books and donating them to libraries,

volunteering time to teach reading, and holding fundraisers to assist in the fight against illiteracy, and

WHEREAS, the year 2002 marks the 100th year of 4-H activity in America and, in observance of this milestone, Florida 4-H members have participated in county and state conversations that have brought together youth, youth leaders, and communities in efforts to identify pressing needs of young people in today's society and to create youth development strategies for the future, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the House of Representatives is pleased to express its appreciation for the efforts of the Florida 4-H program, to offer its congratulations on the observance of the centennial anniversary of the 4-H program in America, and to designate February 19, 2002, as "Florida 4-H Day."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Florida 4-H Foundation as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.