

By Representative Henriquez

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House Resolution

A resolution designating March 20, 2002, as
"Puerto Rico Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is a self-governing island and
commonwealth of the United States discovered by Christopher
Columbus on November 19, 1493, and colonized by the Spaniards
during the 16th century, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico and Florida have a relationship
dating back to 1513, when Ponce de Leon, Puerto Rico's first
governor, embarked on a voyage to explore the New World and
came upon a bountiful land he called "Pascua Florida," and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico was acquired by the United States
in 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War; on March 2,
1917, the Jones Act was signed declaring all Puerto Ricans to
be citizens of the United States, sharing in the full rights
and duties of citizens; and the island was granted
commonwealth status in 1952, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have fought in every major war
of the United States since World War I and have exhibited
outstanding heroic action at a very high cost, for Puerto Rico
had the highest per-capita military combat death rate during
the Korean War, nearly twice that of the United States as a
whole, and many Puerto Ricans have been recognized with
Congressional Medals of Honor, and

WHEREAS, today trade between the state and the
commonwealth amounts to more than \$2.5 billion annually, and
many Puerto Ricans, eager to explore the opportunities offered
by the state's robust economy, continue to come both from
abroad and from other states to join the more than 482,000

1 individuals from Puerto Rico who already make their homes in
2 Florida, and

3 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the ties between
4 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida be
5 recognized, taking note of the positive impact made on the
6 economic and cultural growth of the state, 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 pauses in its
12 deliberations to acknowledge the enrichment of the state's
13 diverse culture afforded by the presence of its Floridians of
14 Puerto Rican heritage and to wholeheartedly designate March
15 20, 2002, as "Puerto Rico Day" in Florida.

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