



HR 9047

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution commending Florida International University
3 Head Coach Don Strock.

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5 WHEREAS, in 1999, when former Dolphins quarterback Don
6 Strock accepted the challenge to build a Division I-AA football
7 program at Florida International University, he saw a "great
8 situation" that was "only going to get better," and

9 WHEREAS, by the start of the 2002 season, Head Coach
10 Strock's team of Golden Panthers, made up almost exclusively of
11 players from within the state, and largely talent from the South
12 Florida area, was operating at an electric, all-time-high-energy
13 level, eager for the approach of the opening game of its
14 inaugural season, and

15 WHEREAS, as Coach Strock had predicted, the Golden Panthers
16 successfully met their opportunity to make history, garnering a
17 27-3 victory over St. Peter's of New Jersey, then the Division
18 I-AA top-rated defensive team, and thus became the seventh major
19 Florida football program to win its opening game, and

20 WHEREAS, at season's end, six members of FIU's inaugural
21 football program were named as first-team selections to the 2002
22 I-AA Independent All-Star team, one player was a second-team
23 selection, and Coach Strock had led the Golden Panthers to a 5-6
24 record, a finish that ranks among the best starts for new
25 Division I-AA programs since 1991, and

26 WHEREAS, the Golden Panthers ultimately plan to play in
27 Division I-A, competing with Florida, Florida State, and Miami,
28 a goal that is certain to be attained under the brilliant
29 leadership of Head Coach Don Strock, NOW, THEREFORE,

30



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

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34 That Head Coach Don Strock is heartily congratulated on the
35 outstanding success of the inaugural season of the Division I-AA
36 football program at Florida International University.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
38 presented to Head Coach Don Strock as a tangible token of the
39 sentiments expressed herein.