



HR 9075

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Whitehall, Henry Flagler's grand Beaux Arts home in Palm Beach.

WHEREAS, after focusing the earlier part of his life on one of the most profitable corporations in history, Henry Flagler built his first luxury hotel, the Hotel Ponce de Leon, in St. Augustine, thus launching the tourism industry in Florida, and eventually erected a series of eight magnificent hotels along the coast of the state, establishing as well cities such as Daytona Beach and the world-famous winter resort, Palm Beach, and

WHEREAS, Flagler built the Florida East Coast Railway to connect the east coast from St. Augustine to Miami and continued across miles of ocean with approximately 160 miles of track, aptly named the Overseas Railroad, hopping from key to key between Miami and Key West, and

WHEREAS, in addition to development, Flagler created a two-million-acre agricultural industry and gave thousands of acres of land for schools, churches, parks, and cemeteries, and more than a century later, Florida's agricultural and tourism industries remain the two largest segments of the state's economy, while nonprofit endowments based on his fortune generate in excess of \$50 million in charitable and educational benefits each year, and

WHEREAS, in 1903, Henry Flagler lavishly celebrated the opening of his Palm Beach home, Whitehall, a grand Beaux Arts structure that is today a National Historic Landmark visited by



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30 people from the world over and listed by major travel guides as  
31 the only "must-see" site in Palm Beach County, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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36 That the Members of the House of Representatives join the  
37 citizens of the Town of Palm Beach in recognizing the 100th  
38 anniversary of Whitehall, a spectacular symbol of the  
39 contributions made by Henry Flagler to the town, the state, and  
40 the nation.