



HR 9111

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating April 8, 2003, as "Puerto Rico
3 Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is a self-governing island and
6 commonwealth of the United States discovered by Christopher
7 Columbus on November 19, 1493, and colonized by Spain during the
8 16th century, and

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

13 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico was acquired by the United States in
14 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War; on March 2, 1917,
15 the Jones Act was signed declaring all Puerto Ricans to be
16 citizens of the United States, sharing in the full rights and
17 duties of citizens; and the island was granted commonwealth
18 status in 1952, and

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

26 WHEREAS, today, trade between the state and the
27 commonwealth amounts to more than \$2.5 billion annually, and
28 many Puerto Ricans, eager to explore the opportunities offered
29 by the state's robust economy, continue to come both from abroad



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30 and from other states to join the more than 482,000 individuals
31 from Puerto Rico who already make their homes in Florida, and

32 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the ties between the
33 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida be
34 recognized, taking note of the positive impact Puerto Ricans
35 have made on the economic and cultural growth of the state, NOW,
36 THEREFORE,

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

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41 That the House of Representatives acknowledges the
42 enrichment of the state's diverse culture afforded by the
43 presence of its Floridians of Puerto Rican heritage and
44 wholeheartedly designates April 8, 2003, as "Puerto Rico Day" in
45 Florida.