



HR 9125

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of Haitian
3 Independence and declaring January 1, 2004, "Republic of
4 Haiti Day" in Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, a self-educated man of African ancestry and a
7 former slave, Toussaint L'Ouverture joined the Haitian slave
8 revolt, a 1791 black slave uprising against the French colonial
9 regime, and became its organizational genius, and

10 WHEREAS, although made a general by the French in 1795 for
11 his role in effecting the withdrawal of British militia from the
12 island, in 1801 Brigadier General Toussaint L'Ouverture was
13 challenged by forces of Napoleon Bonaparte in a move that soon
14 led to a truce but that resulted in Toussaint L'Ouverture's
15 being taken by trickery and sent to France, where he died in a
16 dungeon on April 7, 1803, and

17 WHEREAS, almost nine months later, after 10 years of
18 struggle and uprising, the French army was forced to abandon
19 Mole Saint-Nicolas in Haiti's last battle for independence, and
20 on January 1, 1804, the island nation of Haiti became the second
21 nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States, to
22 win complete independence, and

23 WHEREAS, because of the success of the Haitian Revolution,
24 Napoleon had no choice but to abandon his plan to secure a
25 stronghold in Louisiana from which to invade the Thirteen
26 States, and America was left to pursue its democratic destiny in
27 peace and, through the Louisiana Purchase, to extend its
28 territory westward into new frontiers, NOW, THEREFORE,
29



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

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33 That the Members of the House of Representatives
34 acknowledge their kindred spirit with the citizens of Haiti and
35 all people of Haitian descent in their fierce love of freedom
36 and join them in the joyful celebration of the 200th anniversary
37 of Haitian independence.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
39 declares January 1, 2004, "Republic of Haiti Day" in Florida.