



HR 9167

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of
3 Whitehall, Henry Flagler's grand Beaux Arts home in Palm
4 Beach.

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, in 1903, Henry Flagler lavishly celebrated the
28 opening of his Palm Beach home, Whitehall, a grand Beaux Arts
29 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.