

HR 9015

2004

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Tampa's
3 Gasparilla celebration.

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5 WHEREAS, Jose Gaspar, according to legend, was a
6 swashbuckling renegade-turned-pirate who prowled the waters of
7 West Florida during the late 18th and early 19th centuries,
8 famous for his deeds of derring-do, and

9 WHEREAS, inspired by the exploits of the mythical
10 Gasparilla, as Gaspar was reported to refer to himself, Ye
11 Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla was born in 1904 and thus began an
12 annual celebration during which the City of Tampa is called upon
13 to surrender to these feisty ghosts from the past, and

14 WHEREAS, the Gasparilla Pirate Fest begins each year in
15 mid-winter when 700 unruly plunderers sail into the heart of
16 Tampa on the black-hulled, three-masted "Jose Gasparilla," the
17 world's only fully rigged pirate ship, flags flying, cannons
18 booming, and supported by an armada of pleasure craft and other
19 vessels, and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to a parade known for its myriad
21 floats from which the rowdy, colorfully garbed crews toss beads
22 and doubloons into an eager crowd, the celebration now features
23 numerous exciting events, including a children's parade and the
24 Gasparilla Extravaganza, and has been recognized as one of the
25 most unique festivals in the nation, singled out for its
26 outstanding performance in event production, impact on the area,
27 event management, history, entertainment value, and promotional
28 and sponsorship relations, and

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29 WHEREAS, chosen as one of only two events from Florida to
30 be included in the America Bus Association's prestigious listing
31 of Top 100 Events in North America and having an economic impact
32 on the area of more than \$23 million annually, the fest is also
33 renowned for the civic and charitable work of Ye Mystic Krewe of
34 Gasparilla, NOW, THEREFORE,

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36 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
37 Florida:

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39 That Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla is recognized for its
40 contributions to Tampa and its surrounding areas and is saluted
41 on the 100th anniversary of the Gasparilla Pirate Fest.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
43 presented to Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla as a tangible token
44 of the sentiments expressed herein.