

HR 9053

2004

## 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.  
5

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

18 WHEREAS, on November 18, 1803, in a decisive battle at  
19 Vertieres, Cap Haitian, the slaves, though ill-equipped and  
20 untrained, defeated the French Army, then reputed to be the best  
21 in the world, and that incontrovertible victory led to the  
22 abolition of slavery and to the declaration of independence of  
23 the Republic of Haiti; and on January 1, 1804, the island nation  
24 of Haiti became the first black Republic in the world and the  
25 second nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the United  
26 States, to win complete independence, and

27 WHEREAS, because of the success of the Haitian Revolution,  
28 Napoleon had no choice but to abandon his plan to secure a  
29 stronghold in Louisiana from which to invade the Thirteen

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30 States, and America was left to pursue its democratic destiny in  
31 peace and, through the Louisiana Purchase, to extend its  
32 territory westward into new frontiers, NOW, THEREFORE,  
33  
34 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
35 Florida:

36  
37 That the Members of the House of Representatives  
38 acknowledge their kindred spirit with all people of Haitian  
39 descent in their fierce love of freedom and join them in the  
40 joyful celebration of the 200th anniversary of Haitian  
41 independence.

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