

HR 9063

2004

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the late Congressman Charles
3 Edward Bennett.

4
5 WHEREAS, elected in 1948, United States Representative
6 Charles Edward Bennett, who died September 6, 2003, was the
7 state's longest-serving Congressman, representing the
8 Jacksonville area for a total of more than 44 years under nine
9 presidents, serving as Dean and Chairman of Florida's
10 Congressional Delegation, and supporting many initiatives that
11 benefited Florida and its residents, and

12 WHEREAS, having enlisted in the United States Army in 1941,
13 Charles E. Bennett served with distinction until his discharge
14 as a captain in 1947 after receiving the Silver Star, the Bronze
15 Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Philippine Legion of
16 Honor and Gold Cross for gallantry in action as a wartime leader
17 of Philippine Scouts, and

18 WHEREAS, known as an early advocate for ethical reform in
19 Congress, Congressman Bennett sponsored legislation creating the
20 House Ethics Committee, becoming its first chairman, and in 1954
21 he sponsored the bill that added the words "In God We Trust" to
22 the nation's coins and currency, and

23 WHEREAS, Congressman Bennett was the second-ranking
24 Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, served as
25 Chairman of the Seapower and Strategic Materials Subcommittee,
26 and championed legislation to provide ships for the United
27 States Navy, increase military pay, improve military housing,
28 and reform military justice, and

29 WHEREAS, a cosponsor of the Americans With Disabilities

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30 Act, Congressman Bennett was himself disabled after contracting
 31 polio as a guerrilla fighter in the Philippines during World War
 32 II and thereafter was confined to a wheelchair or the use of a
 33 cane, and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to his legislative service,
 35 Congressman Bennett authored numerous books on Florida history
 36 that have added to the understanding and appreciation of the
 37 early history of the state, and he was instrumental in creating
 38 the Fort Caroline National Memorial and the Timucuan Ecological
 39 and Historical Preserve, and

40 WHEREAS, Charles Edward Bennett was a patriot who will long
 41 be remembered for his principled representation of his
 42 constituents, his impeccable voting record, his uncompromising
 43 ethics and advocacy for ethical reforms in Congress, and his
 44 leadership in helping to ensure a strong national defense as the
 45 cornerstone of national security, NOW, THEREFORE,

46
 47 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 48 Florida:

49
 50 That the Florida House of Representatives honors the late
 51 Congressman Charles Edward Bennett for outstanding service to
 52 the people of this state and the United States.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
 54 presented to Mrs. Dorothy Jean Bennett, widow of Congressman
 55 Charles E. Bennett, as a tangible token of the sentiments
 56 expressed herein.