

HR 9097

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1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 21, 2004, as "Hillsborough
3 County Day" in Tallahassee.

4
5 WHEREAS, the area that is now Hillsborough County was first
6 mapped and explored by the Spanish in the early 16th century,
7 purchased by the United States from Spain in 1821 for \$5
8 million, and organized as Florida's 19th county on January 25,
9 1834, by the U.S. Legislative Council for the Territory of
10 Florida, eleven years before Florida was granted statehood, and

11 WHEREAS, Hillsborough was a sprawling area which, at that
12 time, included what is now Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota,
13 Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties, most of
14 Glades and a third of Lee counties, with a population of 836,
15 excluding soldiers and Native Americans, and

16 WHEREAS, the first Commissioners met in 1846, where the
17 topics were taxes, transportation, a new courthouse (the first
18 one being a small log cabin that was burned during the Second
19 Seminole War), and downtown development; and the tax assessment
20 raised \$148.69 that year, with pay for the Commissioners set at
21 \$2 per day while in session, and

22 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County is located midway along the
23 west coast of Florida, has 1,048 square miles of land and 24
24 miles of inland water area for a total of 1,072 square miles,
25 with the unincorporated area encompassing 84 percent of the
26 total county area with a population of 688,953 and its
27 municipalities, the City of Tampa, incorporated in 1887, a
28 population of 313,611, the City of Plant City, incorporated in
29 1885, a population of 31,573, and the City of Temple Terrace,

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30 incorporated in 1925, a population of 21,670 for a total
 31 population of 1,055,807, a population greater than the states of
 32 Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, North Dakota,
 33 Alaska, Vermont, and Wyoming, and

34 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County is a multicultural, diverse
 35 community with 13 percent of its residents foreign-born and 87
 36 percent native, including 47 percent born in Florida and, among
 37 people at least 5 years old, 21 percent speaking a language
 38 other than English at home, with 76 percent of those speaking
 39 Spanish and 24 percent speaking some other language, and

40 WHEREAS, Hillsborough County is the state's epicenter of
 41 business and commerce, where, between 2000 and 2005, the number
 42 of jobs is projected to grow from 672,400 to 1,120,400 (66
 43 percent) and is anticipated to remain the primary job generator
 44 for the region as it has for the past several decades, with the
 45 top five employers by industry being education, health and
 46 social services (18 percent), retail trade (14 percent),
 47 professional and business services (12 percent), finance,
 48 insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing (10 percent), and
 49 leisure and hospitality (9 percent), and

50 WHEREAS, the county is the home of the University of South
 51 Florida, founded in 1956 and its doors opening in 1960 with
 52 1,993 students enrolled, now the second largest university in
 53 the southeast and among the top 20 in the nation with a total
 54 enrollment of 41,392 students hailing from every state in the
 55 nation and more than 100 countries and its researchers
 56 generating more than \$250 million annually in sponsored research
 57 contracts and grants, which is a key in the creation and
 58 development of the Florida High Technology Corridor,

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59 encompassing some 60 percent of Florida's high tech industries,
 60 and whose football program will become part of the Big East
 61 Conference in 2006 (Go Bulls!), and

62 WHEREAS, Hillsborough Community College serves over 44,000
 63 students annually at four campuses across the county, and

64 WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County School District, a charter
 65 district, is the tenth largest school district in the U.S., with
 66 194,123 students overall and over 19,200 students who speak over
 67 100 different languages and represent nearly 200 different
 68 countries, and is the county's largest employer with 28,243
 69 employees, and

70 WHEREAS, the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research
 71 Institute, a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer
 72 center, one of the top 11 of 39 such centers in the U.S., with
 73 patient visits expected to top 200,000 in 2004 and with an
 74 economic impact estimated at \$142 million, and the Johnnie B.
 75 Byrd, Sr., Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute, under
 76 development on the USF campus and with its first grant awards
 77 occurring in January 2004, are sited in the rapidly developing
 78 medical corridor in northeast Hillsborough County, and

79 WHEREAS, the nation's 29th busiest airport, Tampa
 80 International, serves over 16 million passengers annually to
 81 domestic and international destinations, and three smaller
 82 airports, Vandenberg, Plant City, and Peter O'Knight, also serve
 83 the flying public, and

84 WHEREAS, the Port of Tampa is Florida's largest cargo port,
 85 handling about 50 million tons per year, has four cruise
 86 terminals, has foreign trading partners including Mexico, China,
 87 Trinidad, Canada, and Brazil, and claims 108,000 jobs in a seven

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88 county area and an economic impact of \$13 billion regionally,
 89 and

90 WHEREAS, Hillsborough's farms produce over \$627 million in
 91 total annual sales, yielding 90 percent of Florida's
 92 strawberries, 39 percent of its tomatoes, and 69 percent of its
 93 tropical fish, ranking third in the state in agricultural
 94 production and 57th out of a total of 3,150 counties in the
 95 nation, and

96 WHEREAS, a plethora of cultural facilities in the county
 97 boast an attendance of 5.5 million annually, with an economic
 98 impact of \$402 million, and range from the Tampa Bay Performing
 99 Arts Center and Lowry Park Zoo to The Florida Aquarium, and the
 100 county is the home of the publicly owned Museum of Science and
 101 Industry, Tampa Museum of Art, and Ybor City State Museum, and

102 WHEREAS, the county is the home of MacDill Air Force Base
 103 and the U.S. Central Command, and

104 WHEREAS, the county is also the home of the Super Bowl
 105 XXXVII Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Tampa Bay Lightning,
 106 the five-time national champion Tampa Bay Storm, New York
 107 Yankees Spring Training and the Tampa Yankees, a minor league
 108 affiliate, both playing at Legends Field, the International
 109 Softball Federation in Plant City, and the Outback Bowl, and

110 WHEREAS, the county is the site of the 100-year-old Florida
 111 State Fair, the 100-year-old Gasparialla Pirate Fest, the Plant
 112 City Strawberry Festival, the Ruskin Tomato and Heritage
 113 Festival, and many other fairs and festivals held throughout the
 114 year, and

115 WHEREAS, Hillsborough and its municipalities recognize the
 116 importance of maintaining its historic districts and buildings

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117 with at least seven historic districts in the City of Tampa,
 118 three in Plant City, and an additional 64 individual landmarks
 119 countywide on the National Registry of Historic Places, with the
 120 most well known being the original Tampa Bay Hotel, built in
 121 1891 at a cost of \$2.5 million as the palatial terminus of an
 122 empire of railroads, steamships, and hotels being built by Henry
 123 B. Plant (for whom the City of Plant City is also named), now on
 124 the campus of the University of Tampa, its soaring minarets
 125 emblematic of the City of Tampa, and

126 WHEREAS, the centerpiece of the environment is the
 127 Hillsborough River, 54 miles long and winding through rural,
 128 suburban, and urban landscapes and is part of a regional water
 129 supply, a significant recreational asset for numerous water-
 130 dependent activities, and an aesthetic natural backdrop, also
 131 serving as home to extensive wildlife, including the manatee,
 132 NOW, THEREFORE,

133
 134 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 135 Florida:

136
 137 That the House of Representatives recognizes April 21,
 138 2004, as "Hillsborough County Day" in Tallahassee as it
 139 celebrates the "Flavors of Hillsborough" at the State Capitol.