

HR 9103

2004

House Resolution

A resolution designating April 13, 2004, as "Puerto Rico Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is a self-governing island and commonwealth of the United States discovered by Christopher Columbus on November 19, 1493, and colonized by Spain during the 16th century, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico and Florida have a relationship dating back to 1513, when Ponce de Leon, Puerto Rico's first governor, embarked on a voyage to explore the New World and came upon a bountiful land he called "Pascua Florida," and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico was acquired by the United States in 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War; on March 2, 1917, the Jones Act was signed declaring all Puerto Ricans to be citizens of the United States, sharing in the full rights and duties of citizens; and the island was granted commonwealth status in 1952, and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have fought in every major war involving the United States since World War I and have exhibited outstanding heroic action at a very high cost, for Puerto Rico had the highest per capita military combat death rate during the Korean War, nearly twice that of the United States as a whole, and many Puerto Ricans have been recognized with Congressional Medals of Honor, and

WHEREAS, today, trade between the state and the commonwealth amounts to more than \$2.5 billion annually, and many Puerto Ricans, eager to explore the opportunities offered by the state's robust economy, continue to come both from abroad

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30 | and from other states to join the more than 482,000 individuals
31 | from Puerto Rico who already make their homes in Florida, and

32 | WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the ties between the
33 | Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida be
34 | recognized, taking note of the positive impact Puerto Ricans
35 | have made on the economic and cultural growth of the state, NOW,
36 | THEREFORE,

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38 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
39 | Florida:

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41 | That the House of Representatives acknowledges the
42 | enrichment of the state's diverse culture afforded by the
43 | presence of its Floridians of Puerto Rican heritage and
44 | wholeheartedly designates April 13, 2004, as "Puerto Rico Day"
45 | in Florida.