

HB 0097

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to building designations; designating H. William Heller Hall at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg in Pinellas County; directing the university to erect suitable markers; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg saw new developments, including the addition of lower-division academic programming (advancing the campus from serving only juniors, seniors, and graduate students to a full 4-year institution), and

WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg initiated the process to achieve separate accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and

WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg expanded course and program offerings so that students may now graduate on a timely basis, and

WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg won approval for residence halls on campus, and

WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg fostered university-community partnerships, including the Florida Humanities Council, Y.W.C.A., All Children's Hospital, U.S.G.S., Pinellas County schools, the City of St. Petersburg, and Bayboro neighbors, and

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29 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 30 University of South Florida St. Petersburg increased diversity
 31 among students and faculty, and

32 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 33 University of South Florida St. Petersburg expanded disability
 34 services, and

35 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 36 University of South Florida St. Petersburg implemented
 37 successful SAT prep programs for minorities, increasing student
 38 SAT scores by an average of 100 points, and

39 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 40 University of South Florida St. Petersburg increased access to
 41 the University of South Florida throughout Pinellas County by
 42 offering as many as 10 off-campus sites, and

43 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 44 University of South Florida St. Petersburg increased student
 45 enrollment by 55 percent in the past 5 years, and

46 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 47 University of South Florida St. Petersburg tripled enrollment in
 48 the Honors Program in the past 2 years, and

49 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 50 University of South Florida St. Petersburg implemented three new
 51 degree programs, and

52 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 53 University of South Florida St. Petersburg nearly tripled the
 54 number of faculty members, and

55 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 56 University of South Florida St. Petersburg spearheaded the Urban
 57 Initiative, and

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58 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 59 University of South Florida St. Petersburg implemented a St.
 60 Petersburg College presence on campus that provided educational
 61 opportunities for approximately 500 students, and

62 WHEREAS, under H. William Heller's leadership, the
 63 University of South Florida St. Petersburg increased external
 64 funding exponentially, and

65 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it fitting and appropriate
 66 to honor H. William Heller's leadership and contributions to the
 67 University of South Florida St. Petersburg, the Tampa Bay
 68 community, and the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

69
 70 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 72 Section 1. (1) That building known as Coquina Hall,
 73 located on the campus of the University of South Florida St.
 74 Petersburg in Pinellas County, is designated "H. William Heller
 75 Hall."

76 (2) The University of South Florida St. Petersburg is
 77 directed to erect suitable markers and signs designating H.
 78 William Heller Hall as described in subsection (1).

79 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.