

By Senator Bennett

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution paying tribute to the 50th
Anniversary of Mote Marine Laboratory.

WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory was created in 1955 by
the now-famous shark researcher Dr. Eugenie Clark, with
support from William and Alfred Vanderbilt, and was known then
as the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory and was humbly housed in a
12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida, Florida, and

WHEREAS, during the laboratory's first decade of
existence, its reputation grew as did its facilities, and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of many people dedicated to
the laboratory's success, including former director William R.
Mote and current president Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, the laboratory
has grown to encompass eight buildings for research,
education, and conferences located on a 10.5-acre campus in
Sarasota, Florida, with research and education also going
forward in a Sarasota inland aquaculture park and in field
stations in Charlotte Harbor and in the Florida Keys, and

WHEREAS, after starting with only a handful of
researchers focused solely on sharks, Mote Marine Laboratory
is now a powerhouse of nearshore marine research, studying
everything from sharks to red tide to marine mammals and
fisheries at seven centers, and

WHEREAS, the laboratory has also made a significant
commitment to public education through its aquarium, which
draws 400,000 visitors annually, and through its on-campus and
distance-learning programs, which educate more than 50,000
K-12 and college students, and

1 WHEREAS, today, Mote Marine Laboratory is one of the
2 world's few remaining independent marine research centers and
3 has more than 230 staff members and 1,400 volunteers, and

4 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned
5 international recognition for its contribution to the greater
6 body of scientific knowledge and to public education
7 concerning fragile marine and estuarine ecosystems, NOW,
8 THEREFORE,

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10 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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12 That Mote Marine Laboratory is commended for its
13 tireless pursuit of answers to some of the oceans' most
14 pressing questions and for sharing its knowledge with the
15 world.