By Senator Dockery

15-1733A-05

1	Senate Resolution No
2	A resolution recognizing April 6, 2005, as
3	"University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee.
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5	WHEREAS, the University of Florida, the largest and
6	most comprehensive institution of higher learning in the state
7	of Florida and the state's only university honored by
8	membership in the prestigious Association of American
9	Universities, has recently inaugurated its new president, Dr.
10	J. Bernard Machen, and increasingly is recognized as an
11	international leader in advancements in the arts, science, and
12	medicine, and
13	WHEREAS, through an unrelenting resolve to promote
14	excellence, the university attracts the best students in the
15	state, the country, and the world, now ranking first among all
16	public universities in the number of enrolled National Merit
17	Scholars, ranking first for the number of National Achievement
18	Scholars enrolled for the third year in a row, and again
19	ranking first among all universities in the world in landing
20	International Baccalaureate students, and
21	WHEREAS, the university is home to the finest faculty
22	and staff to be found on any campus in Florida, where a record
23	\$469.8 million in research and training grants was awarded in
24	academic year 2003-2004, and where its overall accomplishments
25	and quality of education earned the University of Florida a
26	Top-5 ranking by Kiplinger Magazine in its most recent
27	rankings, and
28	WHEREAS, the university, one of the top five largest in
29	the United States, also is one of the most diverse in the
30	number of academic programs at both the undergraduate and
31	graduate levels, thus providing the state a center of

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education significant in size and scope to offer the full range of professional skills necessary for a 21st century society, and

WHEREAS, its service to the state is unrivaled, with its student enrollment representing all 67 Florida counties, and with the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences providing extension services to each Florida county, including the Tropical Research and Education Center at its Homestead office, and with the University's health-related clinics and research serving Floridians each day, such as the Hialeah Dental Clinic that provides vital dental care to the southeastern Florida community, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida also excels in its student-athletic program, which has been a Top-Ten program nationally for the past 21 years, posting a program record 12 Top-Ten ranked teams, and was, once again in 2003-2004, the top-ranked Southeastern Conference varsity program for men and women, and whose chief cheerleader for three generations of Gator fans has been the indefatigable George "Mr. Two-Bits" Edmondson, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida takes great pride in each community it serves, from the magnificent hospitality of greater Gainesville/Alachua County recently identified by Popular Science Magazine as one of the Top-30 "technologically advanced" in the nation, to the synergistic effort in Miami-Dade County which has made the New World School of the Arts a global resource for today's artistic expression, and in Florida's Panhandle region where UF's Graduate Engineering Education Center, soon to be renamed the Research Engineering Education Facility, works closely with our national defense

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programs to create new technologies to protect our servicemen
   and women wherever they are deployed, NOW, THEREFORE,
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   Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:
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           That the Florida Senate celebrates April 6, 2005, as
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    "University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee, in honor of the
   University of Florida's singular contribution to its state,
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    its nation, and throughout the world.
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           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
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   with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. J.
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   Bernard Machen, President of the University of Florida, as a
    token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.
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