

HR 9165

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Mote Marine Laboratory on the
3 occasion of its 50th anniversary.

4
5 WHEREAS, housed in a 12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida,
6 Florida, Mote Marine Laboratory was created in 1955 as the Cape
7 Haze Marine Laboratory by the now-famous shark researcher Dr.
8 Eugenie Clark, with backing from William and Alfred Vanderbilt,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, during its first decade of existence, the
11 laboratory experienced a substantial growth in its reputation as
12 well as its facilities and, under the guidance of many people,
13 including former directors, benefactor William R. Mote, and
14 current president Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, now encompasses eight
15 buildings dedicated to research, education, and conference space
16 on its 10.5-acre campus in Sarasota, with research and education
17 also conducted in an inland aquaculture park in Sarasota and in
18 field stations in Charlotte Harbor and the Keys, and

19 WHEREAS, starting with only a handful of researchers
20 focused solely on sharks, Mote is now a powerhouse of near-shore
21 marine research, studying everything from sharks to red tide to
22 marine mammals to fisheries at seven centers, and today, as one
23 of the world's few remaining independent marine research
24 centers, boasts more than 230 staff members and 1,400
25 volunteers, and

26 WHEREAS, Mote has also made a significant commitment to
27 public education through its aquarium, which draws approximately
28 400,000 visitors annually, and through its online campus and

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29 distance learning program that reaches more than 50,000 K-12 and
30 college students, and

31 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned international
32 recognition for its contributions to the greater body of
33 scientific knowledge and public education relating to fragile
34 marine and estuarine ecosystems, NOW, THEREFORE,

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36 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
37 Florida:

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39 That Mote Marine Laboratory is recognized for its tireless
40 pursuit of answers to some of the ocean's most pressing
41 questions, is commended for sharing its knowledge with the
42 world, and is congratulated on the occasion of its 50th
43 anniversary year.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
45 presented to Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, President of Mote Marine
46 Laboratory, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
47 herein.