

By Senator Oelrich

14-2064-07

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the University of
Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida, a member of the
prestigious American Association of Universities, is the best
public university in Florida and one of the top 20 public
universities in the nation, as measured by U.S. News & World
Report, and

WHEREAS, the university is the state's leading research
and educational institution, drawing \$518 million in research
grants during the last fiscal year and offering more than 100
bachelor's degree programs and more than 200 graduate and
professional degree programs, and

WHEREAS, these programs make the university, together
with its Health Science Center and Institute of Food and
Agricultural Sciences, one of the most comprehensive in the
nation, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida was selected last
year as the site for two Centers of Excellence for research on
energy and nanotechnology and one National Science Foundation
research center on high performance computing, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is home to many of
the state's most state-of-the-art research facilities,
including the recently completed Cancer & Genetics Research
Complex, the largest research building in the State of
Florida, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the alma mater of
Bob Vila, host of several nationally televised
home-improvement programs, including "Bob Vila," "Bob Vila's

1 Home Again," and "This Old House" and a 1969 graduate of UF's
2 College of Journalism and Communications, and

3 WHEREAS, the university is a major economic engine
4 creating an economic ripple effect worth more than \$4 billion,
5 many times the state's investment, and

6 WHEREAS, the university serves as a vital engine for
7 the state's technology economy, with companies based on its
8 technologies contributing nearly \$500 million annually to
9 Florida's economy, and

10 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the
11 top-performing public institution at transferring its research
12 to the marketplace according to the prestigious Milken
13 Institute 2006 rankings, and

14 WHEREAS, the university is home to some of the nation's
15 top faculty members, including more than two dozen who have
16 been selected to the National Academies, the Institute of
17 Medicine, or a counterpart in a foreign nation, and the
18 university has more than 50 eminent-scholar chairs, and

19 WHEREAS, the university, as one of the five largest in
20 the country, attracts some of the best students in the nation,
21 ranking 1st among universities worldwide in the numbers of
22 International Baccalaureate students who attend its campus,
23 and producing the second-highest number of PhDs in the nation,
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the university's students are steadily
26 becoming more diverse, with 13 percent of its freshman class
27 African-Americans and 14 percent Hispanic, and the University
28 of Florida in 2006 awarded the third highest number of PhDs to
29 African-Americans among all public universities, and

30 WHEREAS, UF athletes are among the most talented in the
31 nation, and UF most recently finished sixth in national

1 all-sports rankings, the 22nd straight year that Gator
2 athletics have placed in the top 10, and

3 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the first, and
4 currently the only, university in history to hold football and
5 basketball national championship titles within the same year,
6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7
8 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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10 That the Florida Senate celebrates April 11, 2007, as
11 "The University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee, in honor of
12 the University of Florida's contributions to the state, the
13 nation, and the world.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
15 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. J.
16 Bernard Machen, President of the University of Florida, as a
17 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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