

HR 9053

2007

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 27, 2007, as "Colombia Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, with a population 45 million, Colombia boasts a large number of Colombians who live, work, and own businesses in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the oldest democracy in Latin America and the second oldest democracy in the Western Hemisphere, second only to the United States, and

WHEREAS, as a longtime ally of the United States, Colombia's efforts to fight global terrorism and the illegal drug trade have been recognized by former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, and the United Nations as significant steps toward stabilizing a region of critical importance to the United States, and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the fourth largest market for Florida's goods and services, maintaining a \$3.9 billion dollar trading relationship with the state, and

WHEREAS, Colombia has vast mineral and energy resources that are currently being explored and developed for the economic benefit of the entire Western Hemisphere, and

WHEREAS, world-renowned contributions in art, literature, internal affairs, medicine, and music have been made by Colombians, including such luminaries as Dr. Manuel Pattaroyo, developer of the world's first synthetic malaria vaccine, Nobel Laureate in Literature Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Former President of the Organization of American States César Gaviria, painter

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29 and sculptor Fernando Botero, and ten-time Grammy Award winner  
30 Shakira, and

31 WHEREAS, Florida has benefited from its economic and  
32 cultural exchange with Colombia and is honored to continue its  
33 long-standing relationship with this vital strategic partner,  
34 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 March 27, 2007, is recognized as "Colombia Day" in  
40 Florida in recognition of the many economic, cultural, and civic  
41 contributions of the thousands of Colombian-Americans that have  
42 made Florida their home.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
44 presented to the Government of Colombia and its representatives  
45 in the Colombian Consulate located in Florida as a tangible  
46 token of the sentiments expressed herein.