

HR 9093

2007

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating April 11, 2007, as "The
3 University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee.

4
5 WHEREAS, the University of Florida, a member of the
6 prestigious American Association of Universities and one of the
7 20 top-rated public universities in the nation, is home to some
8 of the country's top faculty members; has over 50 eminent
9 scholar chairs; and attracts some of the best students in the
10 nation, ranking first among universities worldwide in the number
11 of International Baccalaureate students enrolled, and

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

17 WHEREAS, the university, a major economic engine with an
18 economic ripple effect worth over \$4 billion, is a major
19 developer of new technologies, disclosing 272 inventions,
20 licensing 66 technologies, and earning \$40 million in licensing
21 revenue in 2005 alone; and companies based on its technologies
22 contribute nearly \$500 million to Florida's economy annually,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is home to several
25 state-of-the-art research facilities, including the recently
26 completed Cancer and Genetics Research Complex and the Center of
27 Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology, and in 2006

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28 was selected as a site for two Centers of Excellence and one
29 National Science Foundation Research Center, and

30 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the alma mater to
31 several distinguished graduates, including Academy Award winning
32 director Jonathan Demme, Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeff
33 Kottkamp, and Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
34 Marco Rubio, and

35 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is also the alma mater
36 of Bob Vila, a 1969 graduate of the university's College of
37 Journalism and Communications and host of several nationally
38 televised home improvement programs, including "Bob Vila," "Bob
39 Vila's Home Again," and "This Old House," and

40 WHEREAS, the university is home to a student body that is
41 becoming increasingly diverse, with 10 percent of its freshmen
42 class African-Americans and 14 percent Hispanic, and

43 WHEREAS, the University of Florida's athletes are among the
44 most talented in the nation, recently attaining sixth place in
45 national all-sports rankings to mark the twenty-second straight
46 year that the Gators have landed among the top 10 in athletics,
47 and

48 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the first and only
49 university in history to hold both football and basketball
50 national championship titles in the same year, NOW, THEREFORE,

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52 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
53 Florida:

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55 That the House of Representatives recognizes the singular
56 contributions of the University of Florida and designates April
57 11, 2007, as "The University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
59 presented to Dr. J. Bernard Machen, President of the University
60 of Florida, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
61 herein.