

HR 9073

2008

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating March 26, 2008, as "Spanish
3 Language Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara" in the
4 State of Florida.

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6 WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas, who wrote under the
7 pseudonym of Justo de Lara, was a distinguished journalist,
8 poet, and author in whose name the Justo de Lara Prize for
9 Spanish Journalistic Excellence, the most prestigious award of
10 its kind in Cuba, was awarded from 1934 until 1959 by El Encanto
11 Department Stores, and

12 WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas was born on March 26,
13 1866, in Guanabacoa, Cuba, to Jose de Armas y Cespedes, the
14 editor of La Nacion newspaper, and Fermina de Cardenas, one of
15 the forerunners of the Cuban Feminism movement, who founded and
16 became editor of the Pink Pages newspaper, and

17 WHEREAS, although educated as an attorney, Jose de Armas y
18 Cardenas chose to work with his father on La Nacion, where he
19 began his illustrious journalistic career, and

20 WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas' fluency in Spanish,
21 Italian, French, and English and his propensity for reading and
22 love of literature fueled his own desire to write, and

23 WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas was a prolific author and
24 noted as one of the most distinguished Cervantes scholars of his
25 era, and

26 WHEREAS, as a journalist, Jose de Armas y Cardenas founded
27 and directed La Avispa magazine in Havana and in New York,
28 founded and directed the El Peregrino magazine in Madrid, Spain,

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29 | and served as a correspondent for The Sun and the New York
30 | Herald newspapers, and

31 | WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas worked during the
32 | Spanish-American War as a special envoy for The Sun in 1898,
33 | serving as an official translator between Cuban General Calixto
34 | Garcia and Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, and in 1908 he worked
35 | as a special envoy for the New York Herald in Haiti, helping the
36 | troops overcome the language barrier, and

37 | WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas received numerous honors
38 | and awards, including being decorated with the Order of the
39 | Caballero Gran Cruz de Isabel la Catolica by the Spanish
40 | Government and being awarded the Commemorative Medal of the
41 | Spanish-American War by the United States Government, and

42 | WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas was the only person of
43 | Spanish-speaking origin named by the Government of England in
44 | 1916 to be a member of the commission responsible for the
45 | tricentennial celebration of William Shakespeare, one of the
46 | authors he admired, many of whose sonnets he had translated into
47 | Spanish, and

48 | WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas was a member of the
49 | Hispanic Society of America, the Real Academy of the Spanish
50 | Language, and the Academy for Cuban History, and

51 | WHEREAS, Jose de Armas y Cardenas, known as "Justo de
52 | Lara," died in 1919 in Havana, Cuba, but continued to serve
53 | posthumously as an example to all who strove to attain
54 | journalistic and literary acclaim, and in whose name the award
55 | for Spanish Journalistic Excellence was given in Cuba from 1934
56 | to 1959, NOW, THEREFORE,

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58 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
59 Florida:

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61 That March 26, 2008, is designated as "Spanish Language
62 Journalism Day in honor of Justo de Lara," in recognition of the
63 excellence in journalism that Jose de Armas y Cardenas achieved
64 during his life and his love of literature in Spanish and other
65 languages, of the excellence in journalism that the award in his
66 honor continued to recognize after his death, and of the hope
67 for such continued excellence today and in the future.