

HR 9105

2008

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution congratulating the Silver Slipper as it  
3 celebrates its 70th Anniversary in 2008 and recognizing  
4 April 1, 2008, as "Silver Slipper Day" at the Capitol.  
5

6 WHEREAS, in 1920, Jimmy "Papa" Kalfas, a penniless teenager  
7 who could only speak a few words of English, arrived in  
8 Tallahassee from Greece to seek his fortune, became manager of  
9 the Silver Slipper in 1942, was a partner in the establishment  
10 by 1944, and became the sole owner in 1947, and

11 WHEREAS, during World War II, hundreds of soldiers and  
12 airmen would wait in the parking lot for hours for a real  
13 charcoal-broiled steak and an evening of dancing at the Silver  
14 Slipper, and

15 WHEREAS, the original Silver Slipper was built in 1938 as a  
16 "dine and dance club," and evolved into the place to eat and be  
17 merry while discussing the issues facing Florida, and

18 WHEREAS, for 70 years the Silver Slipper has been tied  
19 closely to Florida politics and has been a favorite meeting  
20 place of Governors, legislators, lobbyists, and VIPs from around  
21 the state, and

22 WHEREAS, in the first 25 years of the Silver Slipper's  
23 operation, Leon County was "dry" or "semi-dry," which meant no  
24 hard liquor could be sold, and the Silver Slipper was licensed  
25 to sell only beer and wine, and

26 WHEREAS, to circumvent the law, the custom developed at the  
27 Silver Slipper and several other Tallahassee eating  
28 establishments for patrons to bring their own bottles in a brown

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29 paper bag, which worked well for many years until one day in May  
30 1955 when law enforcement officers swept through the Silver  
31 Slipper and confiscated all hard liquor brought in by  
32 legislators, lobbyists, and other patrons, and

33 WHEREAS, although no arrests were made, legislators were  
34 indignant and the first order of business in the Senate that  
35 week was to pass a bill, read three times in one day, to permit  
36 "brown bagging" of liquor, and

37 WHEREAS, between 1938 and 1974, there were seven additions  
38 made to the old Silver Slipper building, but despite the debris  
39 and dislocation of construction, the Silver Slipper was never  
40 closed for a single day of regular operation, and

41 WHEREAS, during his 27 years as the Silver Slipper's owner,  
42 Papa Kalfas devoted his life to the Silver Slipper until the  
43 "Era of Papa" ended early on the morning of Sunday, February 17,  
44 1974, when the Silver Slipper burned to the ground, and

45 WHEREAS, Papa died shortly after the 1974 fire, but not  
46 before he moved the Silver Slipper to temporary quarters in the  
47 lower level of the Northwood Mall, and

48 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Papa was working on  
49 plans to build a magnificent new Silver Slipper, but, as it  
50 turned out, the Slipper remained at its "temporary" site for  
51 another 10 years before the new home of the Silver Slipper was  
52 finally built in 1984, and

53 WHEREAS, although the building is new, the Kalfas tradition  
54 lives on with Chris Kalfas, the eldest of Papa's six children,  
55 serving as the controlling partner and general manager and two

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56 of Papa's grandchildren, Bill and Jimmy, having key roles in  
57 running the Silver Slipper, and

58 WHEREAS, a great many people have dined at the Silver  
59 Slipper over the years, including many distinguished guests and  
60 at least four United States Presidents, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon  
61 B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan, and

62 WHEREAS, the Silver Slipper is a place at which Governor's  
63 races have been planned, election victories celebrated, key  
64 state appointees decided, political alliances formed, moonshine  
65 bagged, legislation initiated, and important compromises made,  
66 NOW, THEREFORE,

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68 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
69 Florida:

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71 That the House of Representatives congratulates the Silver  
72 Slipper as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary in 2008 and  
73 recognizes April 1, 2008, as "Silver Slipper Day" at the  
74 Capitol.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
76 presented to the Kalfas Family, owners of the Silver Slipper, as  
77 a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.