

HR 9183

2008

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating "Speaker Daniel Webster Hall"
3 within the Florida House of Representatives.

4
5 WHEREAS, Room 212, Knott Building, in the Capitol Complex
6 of the State of Florida is the largest committee meeting room of
7 the Florida House of Representatives, and

8 WHEREAS, in November 1996, Representative Daniel Webster
9 became the first Republican Speaker of the Florida House of
10 Representatives in 122 years, serving as Speaker until the 1998
11 general election, and

12 WHEREAS, as Speaker of the House, Daniel Webster radically
13 reformed the Florida House of Representatives, permanently
14 changing the culture of the Florida Legislature, and

15 WHEREAS, among many notable and praiseworthy departures
16 from previous legislative practice, Speaker Daniel Webster
17 diligently ended all committee meetings and House sessions by
18 6:00 p.m. each day, as a demonstration of respect for the
19 importance of family life to House Members, employees and staff
20 of the House, and public participants in the legislative
21 process, and

22 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as Speaker, both Speaker
23 Webster's expressed intentions and his actions ensured that the
24 ideas and proposals of all House Members were considered and
25 advanced based upon principle rather than partisanship, thus
26 honoring the sincere commitment of elected State Representatives
27 to the public good, and

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28 WHEREAS, Speaker Webster's implementation of a complete
29 revision of the Rules of the Florida House of Representatives
30 reestablished the parliamentary principle that each biennially
31 elected body of Members of the Florida House of Representatives
32 has the privilege and duty to govern itself as it sees fit,
33 unrestrained by decisions, precedents, or practices that predate
34 the current duly elected body of House Members chosen by the
35 people of the State of Florida, and

36 WHEREAS, Speaker Webster instituted many other beneficial
37 reforms which no single resolution can sufficiently enumerate or
38 properly acclaim, and

39 WHEREAS, Speaker Webster stood firm against the usurpations
40 of the Governor and the Supreme Court in the case of *Chiles v.*
41 *Phelps* (1998), asserting the privileges and immunities of the
42 House and defending the separation of powers and the respective
43 independence of the House and Senate to act without interference
44 in the powers and duties of each body, and

45 WHEREAS, Daniel Webster's service as Speaker of the Florida
46 House of Representatives garnered him the widespread admiration
47 and respect of those who served under him for his benevolence,
48 the universal accolades of members and observers for his justice
49 and fairness, and the unfailing gratitude of those who have
50 followed him for his faithfulness to the principles that
51 invigorate and empower parliamentary bodies, and

52 WHEREAS, Speaker Daniel Webster's legacy in the Florida
53 House of Representatives has continued for 10 years through the
54 Council-Committee organizational structure, the abolition of
55 recognized caucuses, the inclusion of the "Principles Analysis"

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56 within the staff analysis of legislation produced by House
57 committee staff, and the annual honoring of former House
58 Minority Leaders alongside former Speakers of the Florida House
59 of Representatives, and

60 WHEREAS, Senator Daniel Webster will retire on November 4,
61 2008, after serving for 10 years as a Florida State Senator, at
62 which time he will be permanently restored to his former, higher
63 title of "Speaker," and

64 WHEREAS, Speaker Daniel Webster's immeasurable impact on
65 the House of Representatives, the Florida Legislature, and state
66 government in the State of Florida should always be studiously
67 remembered in the House of Representatives and by every
68 Floridian, including any participant in any important meeting of
69 state government or public life which may utilize Room 212,
70 Knott Building, NOW, THEREFORE,

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72 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
73 Florida:

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75 That Room 212, Knott Building, shall, from November 4,
76 2008, and always thereafter, be designated, identified, referred
77 to, and known as "Speaker Daniel Webster Hall" or "Webster
78 Hall."

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
80 presented to Senator Daniel Webster as a tangible token of the
81 sentiments expressed herein.