

HR 9099

2009

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Governor LeRoy Collins, the 33rd
3 Governor of the State of Florida, on the occasion of the
4 100th anniversary of his birth.

5
6 WHEREAS, Governor Thomas LeRoy Collins, a native son of
7 Florida, was born in the capital city of Tallahassee, Florida,
8 on March 10, 1909, and, to this day, Governor Collins continues
9 to be regarded as one of the foremost statesmen and beloved
10 governors in Florida history, and

11 WHEREAS, 2009 marks the centennial anniversary of the birth
12 of LeRoy Collins, considered by many to be "the greatest
13 Floridian," and

14 WHEREAS, from 1955 to 1961, LeRoy Collins served as the
15 33rd Governor of Florida, leading the state with courage and
16 foresight through the tumultuous civil rights era, and

17 WHEREAS, while guiding the state through a period of
18 unparalleled historic social and cultural change, Governor
19 Collins also implemented a comprehensive vision for the growth
20 and development of Florida and a foundation for strong,
21 principled state government that transformed Florida's role in
22 the nation to that of a modern leadership state, a role that
23 continues into the 21st Century, and

24 WHEREAS, LeRoy Collins has continued to influence
25 Floridians for decades and continues to be recognized and
26 honored for his lifetime of achievements by historians,
27 citizens, and elected officials, and

HR 9099

2009

28 WHEREAS, most notable among the many lasting tributes to
29 Governor Collins is his designation as "Floridian of the
30 Century" in 1991 by the Florida Legislature, where he served in
31 both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate
32 before becoming Governor, and

33 WHEREAS, the naming of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public
34 Library and the Steele-Collins Charter School in his honor were
35 recognitions of his visionary leadership in the field of
36 education, as are a multitude of community college and
37 university programs, projects, and initiatives that have been
38 established in his name over the decades since his term as
39 Governor, and

40 WHEREAS, in recognition of Governor Collins' efforts toward
41 the advancement of participatory democracy, "Florida Citizenship
42 and Leadership Day," also known as "Democracy and Governor
43 Collins Day," was designated and observed in the year 2000 on
44 Governor Collins' birthday, and

45 WHEREAS, for decades, Governor Collins has been heralded as
46 the originator of Florida's renowned "government in the
47 sunshine" or "open government" concept, a concept of state
48 government for which Florida remains the standard throughout the
49 nation, and

50 WHEREAS, as a staunch advocate and faultless practitioner
51 of principled and ethical governance, Governor Collins stood
52 unwaveringly on principle and decency and avoided taking the
53 road of political expediency always, and, as a consequence, his
54 reputation stands unblemished to this day and remains a standard
55 for elected officials everywhere, and

HR 9099

2009

56 WHEREAS, among the other causes and issues Governor Collins
57 championed and advanced were an unwavering devotion to civil
58 rights, human rights, and the rule of law; the advancement of
59 race relations and equal opportunity and equal protection for
60 all; increased funding for education; the revision and
61 modernization of the Florida Constitution; the founding of the
62 community college system; the creation and development of
63 Florida's transportation and turnpike systems; the development
64 of Florida's state parks system; the conscientious stewardship
65 of the state's environment and natural resources; the
66 diversification of the state's economy; apportionment and
67 redistricting of the state in the interest of fairness to
68 voters; the confronting of death penalty issues; the banning of
69 cigarette advertisements on television; the provision of
70 compassionate care to persons with disabilities; the advocacy of
71 a merit system for public employees; the creation of the
72 University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University; the
73 initiation of the annual football game between the University of
74 Florida and Florida State University; prominent display and
75 increased use of the state flag; and many other causes,
76 projects, and issues that formed a comprehensive vision for the
77 improvement of the lives of all Floridians and the government of
78 the state, and

79 WHEREAS, Governor LeRoy Collins is widely regarded as one
80 of the finest and most effective public servants in Florida
81 history and a transformational and visionary governor, and

82 WHEREAS, Governor Collins' many state and national
83 contributions, along with his leadership abilities, sense of

HR 9099

2009

84 | personal courage, and strict adherence to ethical dealings,
85 | serve as an ongoing source of inspiration not only to younger
86 | citizens but to community leaders and elected officials who are
87 | engaged in service to, and strive for the greater good of, their
88 | communities and the state, and

89 | WHEREAS, the spirit with which Governor Collins carried out
90 | the duties of his office and the legacy he left to the state
91 | serve to personally remind us all of what the true nature of a
92 | public servant should be and that each one of us can have a
93 | positive effect on the lives of others, and

94 | WHEREAS, Governor LeRoy Collins' faith and family sustained
95 | him during a lifetime of great achievement, and

96 | WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Call Darby Collins, Governor Collins'
97 | beloved wife, the great granddaughter of territorial Governor
98 | Richard Keith Call, and the four Collins children, daughters
99 | Jane, Mary Call, and Darby, and son, LeRoy, Jr., are also to be
100 | recognized for their many contributions and public service, both
101 | individually and as a family, to the State of Florida, NOW,
102 | THEREFORE,

103 |
104 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
105 | Florida:

106 |
107 | That the House of Representatives of the State of Florida
108 | recognizes and honors Governor LeRoy Collins, 33rd Governor of
109 | the State of Florida and "Floridian of the Century," during
110 | this, the centennial anniversary of his birth, and expresses its
111 | gratitude for Governor Collins' legacy of excellence that has

HR 9099

2009

112 | resulted in the betterment of the lives of Floridians and will
113 | continue to do so for generations to come.

114 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
115 | presented to the family of Governor LeRoy Collins as a tangible
116 | token of appreciation and gratitude and in celebration of the
117 | life of Governor Collins on this, the 100th anniversary of his
118 | birth.