

By Senator Bennett

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20102298

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Mote Marine Laboratory on the occasion of its 55th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, housed in a 12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida, Florida, Mote Marine Laboratory was created in 1955 as the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory by the now-famous shark researcher Dr. Eugenie Clark, with backing from William and Alfred Vanderbilt, and

WHEREAS, during its first decade of existence, the laboratory experienced a substantial growth in its reputation as well as its facilities and, under the guidance of many people, including former directors, benefactor William R. Mote, and current president Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, now encompasses eight buildings dedicated to research, education, and conference space on its 10.5-acre campus in Sarasota, with research and education also conducted in an inland aquaculture park in Sarasota and in field stations in Charlotte Harbor and the Florida Keys, and

WHEREAS, starting with only a handful of researchers focused solely on sharks, Mote Marine Laboratory is now a powerhouse of near-shore marine research, studying everything from sharks to red tide to marine mammals to fisheries at seven centers, and today, as one of the world's few remaining independent marine research centers, boasts more than 190 staff members and 1,300 volunteers who contribute more than 200,000 hours, and

WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory has also made a significant commitment to public education through its aquarium, which draws approximately 350,000 visitors annually, and through its online

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30 campus and distance learning program that reaches more than  
31 28,000 K-12 and college students, and

32 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned international  
33 recognition for its contributions to the greater body of  
34 scientific knowledge and public education relating to fragile  
35 marine and estuarine ecosystems, and

36 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory has significant research  
37 and academic partnerships with various members of the State  
38 University System and has entered into a landmark affiliation  
39 agreement with the University of South Florida that allows two  
40 of the state's leading research institutions to join forces in  
41 new science ventures, provide expanded learning programs, and  
42 create economic development opportunities for the region and  
43 state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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45 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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47 That the Senate recognizes Mote Marine Laboratory for its  
48 tireless pursuit of answers to some of the ocean's most pressing  
49 questions, is commended for sharing its knowledge with the  
50 world, and is congratulated on the occasion of its 55th  
51 anniversary year.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
53 be presented to Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, President of Mote Marine  
54 Laboratory, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed  
55 herein.