

HR 9013

2010

House 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

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29 | approximately 350,000 visitors annually, and through its online
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 academics 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 House of Representatives of the State of
46 | Florida:

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

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