

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame;
 3 creating s. 265.003, F.S.; establishing the Florida
 4 Veterans' Hall of Fame; providing for administration by
 5 the Department of Veterans' Affairs; designating location;
 6 providing procedures for nomination, selection, and
 7 induction; providing an effective date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Section 265.003, Florida Statutes, is created
 12 to read:

13 265.003 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.—

14 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and
 15 honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives
 16 during or after military service, have made a significant
 17 contribution to the State of Florida.

18 (2) There is established the Florida Veterans' Hall of
 19 Fame.

20 (a) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame is administered by
 21 the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs without
 22 appropriation of state funds.

23 (b) The Department of Management Services shall set aside
 24 an area on the Plaza Level of the Capitol Building adjacent to
 25 the existing Medal of Honor Wall and shall consult with the
 26 Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding the design and theme
 27 of the area.

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28 (c) Each person who is inducted into the Florida Veterans'
29 Hall of Fame shall have his or her name placed on a plaque
30 displayed in the designated area of the Capitol Building.

31 (3) (a) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall annually
32 accept nominations of persons to be considered for induction
33 into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame and shall then transmit
34 its recommendations to the Governor and the Cabinet who will
35 select the nominees to be inducted.

36 (b) In making its recommendations to the Governor and the
37 Cabinet, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall give
38 preference to veterans who were born in Florida or adopted
39 Florida as their home state or base of operation and who have
40 made a significant contribution to the state in civic, business,
41 public service, or other pursuits.

42 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may establish
43 criteria and set specific time periods for acceptance of
44 nominations and for the process of selection of nominees for
45 membership and establish a formal induction ceremony to coincide
46 with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.