

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 along the  
 25 northeast front wall and shall consult with the Department of  
 26 Veterans' Affairs regarding the design and theme of the area.

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

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

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

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

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