

By the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Accountability; and Military Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senators Bennett, Gaetz, Sachs, Altman, and Richter

585-03912-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state memorials; creating s.
3 265.003, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
4 establishing the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame on the
5 Plaza Level of the Capitol Building; providing for the
6 Department of Veterans' Affairs to administer the
7 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame; authorizing the
8 department to establish a nomination and selection
9 process and an induction ceremony; providing an
10 effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Section 265.003, Florida Statutes, is created to
15 read:

16 265.003 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.—

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

21 (2) There is established the Florida Veterans' Hall of
22 Fame.

23 (a) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame shall be
24 administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs without
25 appropriation of state funds.

26 (b) The Department of Management Services shall set aside
27 an area on the Plaza Level of the Capitol Building along the
28 northeast front wall and shall consult with the Department of
29 Veterans' Affairs regarding the design and theme of the area.

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

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

38 (b) In making such recommendations, the department shall
39 give precedence to veterans who were born in Florida or adopted
40 this state as their home state or base of operation and who have
41 made a significant contribution to this state in civic,
42 business, public service, or other pursuits.

43 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may establish
44 criteria and set specific time periods for acceptance of
45 nominations and for the process of selecting nominees for
46 membership and establish a formal induction ceremony to coincide
47 with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day. The initial
48 nomination review committee shall be chaired by Col. Bruce J.
49 Host, USAF, Ret., in cooperation with the Florida Veterans
50 Foundation.

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