

HR 9019

2011

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Liberty Day, March 16, 2011, as a
3 time to encourage current and previously elected officials
4 in Florida to participate in education programs that focus
5 on the contents of the Constitution of the United States.

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7 WHEREAS, fifty-five delegates assembled in Philadelphia in
8 May 1787 for a Constitutional Convention and, of these
9 delegates, who ranged in age from 27 years of age to 81 years of
10 age and who came from varied backgrounds, at least half of them
11 were university educated, and

12 WHEREAS, the delegates set out to draft a document that
13 would represent the will and voice of a mostly rural population
14 of 3.9 million citizens, who were a collection of diverse
15 peoples from around the world, and, in doing so, the delegates
16 discussed and debated complex issues such as the form of
17 government, the rights of people, and slavery, and

18 WHEREAS, the delegates drafted a document that took the
19 best influences from the pages of history and political
20 philosophy, including concepts as diverse as common law from the
21 Magna Carta issued in 1215, Polybius' 2nd Century BC treatise on
22 the Constitution of the Roman Republic, and the theories of
23 multiple political philosophers such as Montesquieu and John
24 Locke, and

25 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States was adopted
26 on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention and,
27 after much debate, was ratified in all thirteen states, Delaware

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28 | being the first on December 7, 1787, and Rhode Island being the
29 | last on May 29, 1790, and

30 | WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States has been
31 | amended only twenty-seven times in its history, including the
32 | first ten amendments ratified in 1791 that form our Bill of
33 | Rights and, despite these changes, its basic principles have
34 | remained the same as when written, making the Constitution of
35 | the United States the oldest written constitution still in use
36 | by any nation in the world, and

37 | WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States has been
38 | translated into many languages as diverse as Thai, Russian, and
39 | Chinese and has influenced the drafting of the constitutions of
40 | many other nations, and

41 | WHEREAS, James Madison, the fourth president of the United
42 | States, is commonly referred to as the "Father" of the
43 | Constitution of the United States, as he along with Gouverneur
44 | Morris were the document's main draftsmen, and

45 | WHEREAS, March 16, 2011, will mark the 260th anniversary of
46 | James Madison's birth, and

47 | WHEREAS, in 2000, the 106th United States Congress passed
48 | House Concurrent Resolution 376, which designated James
49 | Madison's birthday as Liberty Day to be celebrated each year,
50 | congratulated all elected and previously elected representatives
51 | of the people, and encouraged these representatives to
52 | voluntarily give of their time to speak to Americans about the
53 | nation's founding documents, and

54 | WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has continued its
55 | commitment to and support of civics education by requiring the

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56 | teaching of the history, meaning, and significance of the
57 | provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and the
58 | amendments thereto, in the public schools of this state, NOW,
59 | THEREFORE,

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61 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
62 | Florida:

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64 | That the House of Representatives recognizes March 16,
65 | 2011, Liberty Day, as a time to encourage all current and
66 | previously elected officials of this state to participate in the
67 | civics education of all Floridians about the contents of the
68 | Constitution of the United States and to continue such education
69 | throughout the year.