

HR 9057

2012

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution celebrating Haitians and Haitian
3 Americans for their 208 years of rich and moving
4 history.

5
6 WHEREAS, January 2012 marks 208 years since Haiti abolished
7 European enslavement, the Triangular Trade, forced
8 assimilation/ethnic cleansing, and direct colonialism and became
9 an independent black nation, and

10 WHEREAS, Haiti was the first independent nation in Latin
11 America, the first post-colonial independent black-led nation in
12 the world, and the only nation whose independence was gained as
13 part of a successful slave rebellion, and

14 WHEREAS, the outbreak of revolution in France in the summer
15 of 1789 had a powerful effect on the colony of Saint-Domingue,
16 which would later become the independent nation of Haiti, and

17 WHEREAS, while the French settlers debated how new
18 revolutionary laws would apply to Saint-Domingue, outright civil
19 war broke out in 1790 when the free men of color claimed they
20 too were French citizens under the terms of the Declaration of
21 the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and

22 WHEREAS, the Haitian Revolution took place from 1791 to
23 1804 and was a period of conflict in the French colony of Saint-
24 Domingue, marked with bloody slave rebellions against the French
25 colonists and the French establishing a system of minority rule
26 over the illiterate poor by using violence and threats, and

27 WHEREAS, in 1804, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, leader of the
28 Haitian Revolution, declared Haiti a free republic, and

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29 WHEREAS, since the assassination of Haiti's founding
30 father, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, in 1806, just 2 years after its
31 independence, Haiti has been struggling against neocolonialism,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the Haitian Revolution successfully achieved
34 permanent independence from a European colonial power for an
35 American state before the 19th century and is generally
36 considered the most successful slave rebellion ever to have
37 occurred in the Americas and a defining moment in the history of
38 Africans in the New World, and

39 WHEREAS, more than one-third of Haitians in the United
40 States call Florida their home and play an integral role in
41 stimulating economic activity, increasing cultural diversity and
42 awareness, and providing vital services to those in need, NOW,
43 THEREFORE,

44
45 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
46 Florida:

47
48 That the citizens of Haiti and Haitian Americans are
49 celebrated for their 208 years of rich and moving history.