

By Senator Richter

23-01544C-13

20131296

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing July 27 and 28, 2013, as "Florida Family Golf Days."

WHEREAS, the golf industry has become an integral part of the economy, identity, and quality of life in this state, and

WHEREAS, golf has become a major component of Florida's economy, with a direct economic impact in 2007 of \$7.5 billion and an indirect economic benefit of \$13.8 billion, and

WHEREAS, the golf industry employs 167,000 Floridians and has an annual payroll of \$4.7 billion, and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to the PGA TOUR in Ponte Vedra Beach, the LPGA in Daytona Beach, the PGA of America in Palm Beach Gardens, The First Tee, the World Golf Hall of Fame, and the World Golf Foundation in St. Augustine, and

WHEREAS, Florida enjoys nationally recognized statewide golf industry associations, including the Florida Club Managers Association of America, The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Florida State Golf Association, and the Florida Sections of the PGA of America, and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more than 1,200 public and private golf course facilities, more than any other state in America, which generate revenues of \$3.4 billion, more than all other spectator sports in the state combined, and

WHEREAS, Florida will host 14 professional golf championships in 2013, including five PGA TOUR events, two Champions Tour events, a Web.com Tour event, an LPGA Tour event, three "Legends Tour" events, and five Symetra Tour events, and

WHEREAS, two of golf's most prestigious events are played

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30 in Florida, THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte
31 Vedra Beach and the World Golf Championships - Cadillac
32 Championship, played since 2007 at the Blue Monster Course of
33 the Doral Golf Resort & Spa, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida's golf industry is a top contributor to
35 charitable organizations, with donations totaling more than \$312
36 million annually from numerous charitable golf outings and
37 events as well as the charitable giving associated with
38 professional golf tournaments, and

39 WHEREAS, beneficiaries of these charitable events include
40 Miami Children's Hospital, First Tee Miami, the Make-A-Wish
41 Foundation, Baptist Children's Hospital, the Children's Miracle
42 Network hospitals, the Nicklaus Children's Health Care
43 Foundation, The First Tee National School Program, Boy Scouts of
44 America, the American Red Cross, the Alzheimer's Support
45 Network, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest Florida, and many
46 others, and

47 WHEREAS, Florida's golf courses and superintendents have
48 continued to be stewards of the environment by using best
49 practices in hazardous waste management, wetland and stormwater
50 protection, and wastewater minimization, and

51 WHEREAS, the game of golf assists in the development of
52 Florida's youth through the introduction of life skills
53 experiences, management of emotions, goal setting, conflict
54 resolution, and improving relationships with family and
55 community, and

56 WHEREAS, the concentration of golf activity in Florida in
57 2013 will bring an unprecedented amount of worldwide exposure to
58 this state, and

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59 WHEREAS, golf is a tremendous asset to this state,
60 impacting quality of life and tourism and strengthening the
61 state's position as a great place to live and do business, and

62 WHEREAS, the golf industry has a tremendous impact on the
63 state's economy, provides recreation and wellness opportunities
64 for residents of all ages, fosters strong character development
65 for Florida's youth, provides opportunities for family playtime
66 together, contributes significantly to charitable organizations,
67 and is intrinsic to the brand of the Sunshine State, NOW,

68 THEREFORE,

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70 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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72 That, in recognition of the importance of golf in
73 strengthening families and to the economy of this state, the
74 Senate recognizes July 27 and 28, 2013, as "Florida Family Golf
75 Days."

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
77 presented to the affiliated organizations of the World Golf
78 Foundation as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed in
79 this resolution.