

HR 9117

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating April 18, 2013, as "Puerto
3 Rico Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Island of Puerto Rico was discovered by
6 Christopher Columbus in 1493 and ceded by Spain to the United
7 States in 1898, following the Spanish-American War, and

8 WHEREAS, with a population of nearly 4 million people, the
9 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico boasts an additional 4.6 million
10 Puerto Ricans who live in the continental United States,
11 approximately one-half of whom are second and third generation,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, more than 847,550 Puerto Ricans reside in the
14 State of Florida, predominantly in South Florida and the Orlando
15 area, and

16 WHEREAS, the people of Puerto Rico represent a diverse
17 cultural and racial mix that consistently contributes to
18 Florida's cultural and economic growth, and

19 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have participated in and enriched
20 all areas of American society, such as, but not limited to,
21 arts, sciences, the military, economy, education, and politics,
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in
24 association with the United States, the commonwealth's chief of
25 state is the President of the United States of America, and the
26 head of Puerto Rico's government is an elected governor, and

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27 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has one of the most dynamic economies
 28 in the Caribbean region, with exports and imports nearly
 29 doubling between fiscal years 1987 and 1997, and

30 WHEREAS, the tourism industry has traditionally been an
 31 important source of income for Puerto Rico, with nearly 3.7
 32 million tourists in 2010, providing 7 percent of the island's
 33 Gross National Product and employing over 60,000 people, and

34 WHEREAS, the State of Florida welcomes and promotes the
 35 enhancement of trade, business, and cultural and educational
 36 exchanges with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, NOW, THEREFORE,

37
 38 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 39 Florida:

40
 41 That April 18, 2013, is designated as "Puerto Rico Day" in
 42 the State of Florida.