

HR 9123

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution encouraging participation in National
3 Memory Screening Day.
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5 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive
6 disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other
7 cognitive functions and, eventually, death, and

8 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of
9 death in the United States and currently affects an estimated
10 5.2 million Americans, and

11 WHEREAS, in Florida alone, it is estimated that nearly
12 500,000 people have Alzheimer's disease, and

13 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease results in
14 a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to 6 years, and

15 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
16 family members, with an estimated one in four acting as
17 caregivers for each individual with the disease, and

18 WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's
19 disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
20 caregivers for people with other illnesses, and

21 WHEREAS, recent advancements in scientific research have
22 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for
23 individuals with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the benefits of
24 early access to counseling and other support services for their
25 caregivers, and

26 WHEREAS, with an early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or
27 correct contributing medical problems, commence available
28 therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance self-

HR 9123

2013

29 determination and caregivers can identify and embrace community
30 support services, and

31 WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,
32 National Memory Screening Day was established by the Alzheimer's
33 Foundation of America (AFA) as a collaborative effort with local
34 organizations and health care professionals across the country
35 to promote awareness, early detection, and early diagnosis of
36 memory impairment so that individuals can obtain proper medical
37 treatment, social services, and other resources related to the
38 treatment of their condition, and

39 WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day is held by the AFA
40 each third Tuesday in November in recognition of National
41 Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and, on this day, health
42 care professionals administer free, confidential, face-to-face
43 memory screenings at thousands of sites throughout the United
44 States, and

45 WHEREAS, memory screening is not used to diagnose any
46 illness, but is used as an indicator to determine whether a
47 person might benefit from further examination by a qualified
48 health care provider, and

49 WHEREAS, memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective
50 intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate
51 clinical resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or
52 hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications, and

53 WHEREAS, screenings also greatly benefit those with normal
54 scores by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting
55 chronic disease prevention and successful aging, NOW, THEREFORE,

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HR 9123

2013

57 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
58 | Florida:

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60 | That all Americans with memory concerns or who want to
61 | check their memory are encouraged to have memory screenings at
62 | National Memory Screening Day sites or by other qualified
63 | professionals on November 19, 2013, National Memory Screening
64 | Day.