

HR 9029

2014

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring author Patrick D. Smith for his
3 contributions in capturing the history, culture, and
4 promise of the state.

5
6 WHEREAS, born on October 8, 1927, in Mendenhall,
7 Mississippi, Patrick D. Smith graduated from the University of
8 Mississippi in Oxford with both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a
9 Master of Arts degree in English, and

10 WHEREAS, in 1966, Patrick D. Smith became the Director of
11 Public Relations at Brevard Junior College, now known as Eastern
12 Florida State College, where he served until his retirement in
13 1988, and

14 WHEREAS, a prolific novelist since his early twenties,
15 Patrick D. Smith brought to life the vibrant heritage of his
16 adopted home state by authoring several novels set in Florida,
17 the best-known and most beloved of which was "A Land
18 Remembered," a fictional, multigenerational tale of a family's
19 transformation from pioneers into wealthy tycoons as Florida
20 evolved from a dangerous frontier territory to a condominium
21 capital, and

22 WHEREAS, often compared to works by Marjorie Kinnan
23 Rawlings and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "A Land Remembered" was
24 published in a two-volume student edition and approved by the

HR 9029

2014

25 Department of Education for use in the state's public schools,
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Patrick D. Smith was nominated for a Nobel Prize
28 in Literature in 1985, was nominated three times for the
29 Pulitzer Prize, was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of
30 Fame in 1999, and was declared the "Greatest Living Floridian"
31 by the Florida Historical Society in 2002, and

32 WHEREAS, in 2013, Governor Rick Scott honored Patrick D.
33 Smith as a "Great Floridian," an award presented to men and
34 women who have made significant contributions to the progress
35 and welfare of Florida, and

36 WHEREAS, on January 26, 2014, 86-year-old Patrick D. Smith
37 passed away at Vitas Hospice in Merritt Island, leaving an
38 incredible void in the lives of his wife, Iris, his son, Rick,
39 and his daughter, Jane, as well as five grandchildren and
40 several great-grandchildren, NOW, THEREFORE,

41
42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 Florida:

44
45 That, in memoriam, distinguished Floridian Patrick D. Smith
46 is recognized and honored for his invaluable contributions in
47 capturing the history, culture, and promise of Florida and is
48 extended sincerest gratitude for the legacy he leaves for the
49 state's future generations.