

HR 9053

2015

House Resolution

1 A resolution designating March 24, 2015, as
2 "University of Florida Day" in the State of Florida in
3 honor of the University of Florida's exceptional
4 contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.
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7 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is ranked seventh on the
8 2015 list of Best Public Colleges in America by The Business
9 Journals, and

10 WHEREAS, the University of Florida was ranked fourteenth in
11 the U.S. News & World Report's 2014 list of Top Public Schools,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, for the third consecutive year, Kiplinger ranked
14 the University of Florida third on its 2015 list of Best College
15 Values which ranks the 100 top values in public colleges and
16 universities based upon high 4-year graduation rates, low
17 student-faculty ratios, reasonable price tags, and generous
18 need-based aid for students who qualify, and

19 WHEREAS, the University of Florida maintains its best-value
20 ranking with in-state tuition of \$6,310 per year for a full-time
21 undergraduate student carrying a course load of 30 credits,
22 which is considerably lower than the national average of \$9,139
23 per year for 4-year public universities, and

24 WHEREAS, in 2015, the University of Florida continues to
25 enroll academically talented students, with students admitted

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26 | for Fall 2015 having an average GPA of 4.3 and SAT score of
27 | 1918, and

28 | WHEREAS, the University of Florida conferred its 500,000th
29 | degree in 2014, making it one of only a handful of universities
30 | nationwide to reach that milestone and illustrating its lengthy
31 | history of providing Floridians with higher education and
32 | economic opportunity, and

33 | WHEREAS, as part of an ongoing effort to increase access to
34 | college in innovative ways, in February 2015, the University of
35 | Florida launched Pathway to Campus Enrollment, a program that
36 | offers prospective freshmen admission to UF Online with a
37 | guarantee of admission as a third-year residential student, and

38 | WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to provide
39 | access to education for students from low-income families who
40 | are the first in their families to attend college through the
41 | Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, which, since its
42 | founding in 2006, has supported more than 3,200 such students,
43 | and

44 | WHEREAS, using funding provided by the Legislature under
45 | the University of Florida's designation as a preeminent state
46 | research university, the school has hired nearly 75 top faculty
47 | from around the world in more than two dozen focus areas
48 | addressing complex social issues, and

49 | WHEREAS, the University of Florida Gator softball team
50 | swept the University of Alabama during the 2014 Women's College

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51 World Series in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to claim its first NCAA
52 national championship, and

53 WHEREAS, the University of Florida Gator gymnastics team
54 won its second straight NCAA national championship in 2014 in
55 Birmingham, Alabama, sharing the title with the University of
56 Oklahoma, and

57 WHEREAS, in August 2014, the University of Florida reported
58 receiving a record \$702 million in contracts and grants during
59 fiscal year 2013-2014, and

60 WHEREAS, in October 2014, the University of Florida broke
61 ground on a 110,000 square-foot chemistry and chemical biology
62 building that will allow undergraduate students to collaborate
63 with the College of Medicine and the College of Engineering on
64 important drug discoveries, and

65 WHEREAS, in February 2014, the University of Florida
66 launched Cypress Hall, a new residence hall that will include
67 the university's first specially equipped rooms for severely
68 disabled students, and in November 2014, the university
69 completed Heavener Hall, a major new classroom and learning
70 facility for undergraduates majoring in business, and

71 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to develop the
72 public-private partnership known as Innovation Square with
73 Signet Enterprises, launching construction on a groundbreaking
74 residence hall and entrepreneurial living community that brings
75 together the necessary elements for students to start their own
76 businesses, and

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77 WHEREAS, in February 2015, Optym, a software and logistics
78 company created by University of Florida engineering professor
79 Ravi Ahuja, completed its move to a new office complex in
80 Gainesville where it plans to add 100 jobs, each with an average
81 salary of over \$70,000, over the next 5 years, NOW, THEREFORE,

82

83 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
84 Florida:

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86 That March 24, 2015, is designated as "University of
87 Florida Day" in the State of Florida in honor of the
88 university's exceptional contributions to the state, the nation,
89 and the world.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
91 presented to Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, President of the University of
92 Florida, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.