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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing September 8, 2015, as  
"Founder's Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine is recognized as the  
oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the  
continental United States, and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés  
founded St. Augustine in the Spanish territory La Florida and,  
since this founding, St. Augustine has been occupied by Spanish,  
British, and American colonists, and

WHEREAS, the first Christian Mass in the New World was  
offered in St. Augustine by Father Francisco López de Mendoza  
Grajales, founding the Parish of St. Augustine and establishing  
Christianity in these lands, and

WHEREAS, Fort Mose, the first free African American  
settlement in the United States, is located in St. Augustine,  
and

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 450th anniversary of the founding  
of St. Augustine and the multicultural founding of America, NOW,  
THEREFORE,

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

HR 9063

2015

26           That in honor of the 450th anniversary of the founding of  
27 St. Augustine, September 8, 2015, is recognized as "Founder's  
28 Day" and all citizens are encouraged to celebrate this momentous  
29 day with pride and joy.