

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 Senate Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution requesting the Joint Committee
3 on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement
4 of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby
5 Smith in the National Statuary Hall with a statue of
6 Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

7
8 WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Florida Legislature passed, and
9 the Governor signed into law, Senate Bill 310, authorizing the
10 replacement of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby
11 Smith in the National Statuary Hall with a prominent Florida
12 citizen recommended by the ad hoc committee of the Great
13 Floridians Program within the Division of Historical Resources
14 of the Department of State, and

15 WHEREAS, one of the three prominent Florida citizens
16 recommended by the ad hoc committee is Marjory Stoneman Douglas,
17 and

18 WHEREAS, beginning in the 1920s, Marjory Stoneman Douglas
19 invested years of her life researching what little scientific
20 knowledge was recorded about the unique ecology and history of
21 the Everglades, and

22 WHEREAS, instead of gifts and celebrations on her birthday,
23 Douglas asked that trees be planted, resulting in over 100,000
24 planted trees across the state, and

25 WHEREAS, in her book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*,
26 published in 1947, Marjory Stoneman Douglas characterized the
27 Everglades as a complex web of ecosystems surrounding a
28 treasured river worthy of protecting, which redefined the
29 popular conception that the Everglades were merely an
30 insignificant swamp, and

31 WHEREAS, until her death in 1998, Marjory Stoneman Douglas
32 was a fearless crusader who dedicated herself to the protection

37-01402-17

2017760__

33 and restoration of the Everglades, and

34 WHEREAS, today, Everglades National Park is a World
35 Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve, a Wetland of
36 International Importance, and a specially protected area under
37 the Cartagena Treaty and continues to draw millions of tourists
38 to the state, and

39 WHEREAS, in 1980, the Tallahassee headquarters building for
40 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was named
41 after Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and

42 WHEREAS, in 1986, the National Parks Conservation
43 Association established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award,
44 which honors individuals who go to great lengths to advocate for
45 the protection of the National Park System, and

46 WHEREAS, in 1987, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was named a
47 Great Floridian by the ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians
48 Program, and

49 WHEREAS, in 1991, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was honored with
50 a visit from Queen Elizabeth II, and

51 WHEREAS, in 1993, former President Bill Clinton awarded
52 Marjory Stoneman Douglas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the
53 highest honor given to a civilian, calling her "a mentor for all
54 of us who desire to preserve what we Southerners affectionately
55 call a sense of place," and

56 WHEREAS, in 1999, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was inducted
57 into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame; and

58 WHEREAS, in 2000, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was inducted
59 into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and

60 WHEREAS, in 2015, former President Barack Obama announced
61 the designation of Marjory Stoneman Douglas' cottage located in

37-01402-17

2017760__

62 Coconut Grove as a National Historic Landmark, and

63 WHEREAS, former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles explained
64 the impact Marjory Stoneman Douglas had on the lives of
65 Floridians by saying, "Marjory was not just a pioneer of the
66 environmental movement, she was a prophet, calling out to us to
67 save the environment for our children and our grandchildren,"
68 and

69 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas is a renowned journalist
70 and author of the 20th century and Florida's most eminent
71 environmentalist whose legendary works remain the definitive
72 reference on the Florida Everglades, NOW, THEREFORE,

73

74 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House
75 of Representatives Concurring:

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77 That the Legislature hereby respectfully requests the Joint
78 Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement
79 of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith in the
80 National Statuary Hall with a statue of Marjory Stoneman
81 Douglas.