

HR 8021

2018

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing January 23, 2018, as "Florida
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, in May 1991, then-Governor Lawton Chiles signed
6 into law a bill passed by the Florida Legislature authorizing
7 the creation of Florida's tenth public university, Florida Gulf
8 Coast University (FGCU), to provide higher education
9 opportunities and workforce development in the previously
10 underserved region of Southwest Florida, and

11 WHEREAS, FGCU opened its doors to students on August 25,
12 1997, and held its first commencement in May 1998 with 81
13 graduates, and

14 WHEREAS, in August of 2017, FGCU celebrated its 20th
15 anniversary, and

16 WHEREAS, during FGCU's first 20 years, it was led by three
17 outstanding and dynamic presidents: President Roy McTarnaghan,
18 President William C. Merwin, and President Wilson G. Bradshaw,
19 and

20 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2017, Dr. Michael V. Martin became the
21 fourth president to lead FGCU, and is committed to ensuring for
22 all students a clear pathway to success and college
23 affordability, exemplified by holding tuition at the same rate
24 for 5 years, and

25 WHEREAS, FGCU's top priority is student success, including

26 | the university's strong focus on providing the necessary
27 | academic resources and laboratory facilities to timely complete
28 | a degree from one of the five colleges, including an
29 | accomplished faculty and dedicated staff that are instrumental
30 | in helping students prepare for successful careers, and

31 | WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional
32 | university of nearly 15,000 students and today offers 53
33 | undergraduate, 23 graduate, 10 certificate, and 3 doctoral
34 | programs that help to meet the growing regional and statewide
35 | workforce needs, and

36 | WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led to the
37 | university achieving national prominence in academics,
38 | environmental sustainability, and student service learning, with
39 | over two million student service learning hours accrued in the
40 | Southwest Florida community since 1997, and

41 | WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary
42 | learning, using the region as a living laboratory while offering
43 | students diverse opportunities to participate in meaningful
44 | research led by their professors, and

45 | WHEREAS, FGCU has established the Institute of
46 | Entrepreneurship, which brings engineering and business students
47 | together to develop products and business plans in a real-world
48 | setting, and provides learning opportunities that will enhance
49 | the university's science, technology, engineering, and
50 | mathematics (STEM) education and sustainability initiatives, and

51 WHEREAS, FGCU serves as a cultural hub for the region and
 52 offers a wealth of enriching opportunities in the visual arts,
 53 music, theater, and public radio and television, and

54 WHEREAS, the FGCU basketball team is famous for its
 55 remarkable 2013 season, when it was the first 15-seed team in
 56 tournament history to advance to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA
 57 basketball tournament, gaining the school fans nationwide, and

58 WHEREAS, FGCU's athletic programs, part of the NCAA
 59 Division I Atlantic Sun Conference, continue to be a source of
 60 pride for their loyal fans with student-athletes also excelling
 61 in the classroom by earning an overall GPA of 3.27, and

62 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the
 63 lives of FGCU students through the university's longstanding
 64 commitment to promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity
 65 on campus and the "FGCU Effect," NOW, THEREFORE,

66
 67 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 68 Florida:

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 70 That January 23, 2018, is recognized as "Florida Gulf Coast
 71 University Day" in Florida.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
 73 presented to Michael V. Martin, Ph.D., president of Florida Gulf
 74 Coast University, as a tangible token of the sentiments
 75 expressed herein.