

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution commending the extraordinary achievements
3 of the faculty, staff, administration, and students of
4 the University of Central Florida and President John
5 C. Hitt, Ph.D., and recognizing January 24, 2018, as
6 "University of Central Florida Day" in Florida.

7
8 WHEREAS, Dr. John C. Hitt will retire on June 30, 2018,
9 after more than 26 transformative years as president of the
10 University of Central Florida (UCF), and

11 WHEREAS, UCF has grown from 21,000 students to more than
12 66,000 under President Hitt's leadership, making it the largest
13 university in Florida and one of the largest universities in
14 America, and

15 WHEREAS, President Hitt has led even more impressive gains
16 in the quality of a UCF education, with average SAT scores of
17 incoming freshmen rising from 1060 to 1318, the number of
18 National Merit Scholars climbing from 18 to 315, and the average
19 GPA of incoming freshmen increasing to a school record of 4.06,
20 and

21 WHEREAS, President Hitt has demonstrated an unwavering
22 commitment to strengthening his community and the state by
23 fostering an educated workforce through partnerships with
24 private industry and other universities, and

25 WHEREAS, UCF has earned a top "R1: Doctoral Universities -

HR 8025

2018

26 Highest research activity" classification from the Carnegie
27 Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, and UCF
28 ranks 21st in the nation among public universities for United
29 States patents, and one of the best in the nation for research
30 that produces technology spinoffs, and

31 WHEREAS, President Hitt, as the first in his family to
32 attend college, recognized the power of a college education to
33 change lives and has worked tirelessly to remove barriers to
34 obtaining a degree, and

35 WHEREAS, one in four UCF students is the first in his or
36 her family to attend college, and freshman minority enrollment
37 is at an all-time high of 46 percent, and

38 WHEREAS, UCF now awards more than 15,000 degrees annually,
39 more than any other public university in the nation, and

40 WHEREAS, President Hitt oversaw the establishment of the
41 UCF College of Medicine in 2006, and it has attracted and
42 graduated some of the nation's top students and faculty members
43 and will soon be joined by a university hospital being developed
44 in partnership with the Hospital Corporation of America, one of
45 the nation's leading providers of health care services, and

46 WHEREAS, President Hitt has been recognized as one of the
47 most innovative university presidents in America, and UCF now
48 ranks alongside Harvard, Stanford, and Duke as one of the
49 nation's most innovative universities, according to *U.S. News &*
50 *World Report's Best Colleges of 2018*, and

HR 8025

2018

51 WHEREAS, President Hitt has supported the success of
52 student-athletes on and off the field, so that UCF student-
53 athletes have held the Number 1 NCAA Graduation Rate of any
54 public university in the Division 1 Football Bowl Subdivision
55 for the last 4 consecutive years, and

56 WHEREAS, on January 1, 2018, the UCF Knights football team
57 completed a perfect season with a 34-27 win over the Auburn
58 University Tigers in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the only team
59 to go undefeated in the 2017 NCAA Division 1 Football Bowl
60 Subdivision, NOW, THEREFORE,

61

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

64

65 That the extraordinary achievements of the faculty, staff,
66 administration, and students of the University of Central
67 Florida and President John C. Hitt, Ph.D., are commended, and
68 January 24, 2018, is recognized as "University of Central
69 Florida Day" in Florida.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
71 presented to the University of Central Florida President John C.
72 Hitt, Ph.D., as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
73 herein.