

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution commending John A. Delaney on his
3 extraordinary achievements as president of the
4 University of North Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, the University of North Florida (UNF) in
7 Jacksonville opened its doors to 2,027 students in the fall of
8 1972, and, in 2003, John A. Delaney became the university's
9 fifth president, and

10 WHEREAS, today, the university includes six colleges and
11 has a current enrollment of 16,500 diverse students from 49
12 states and 71 countries, and

13 WHEREAS, UNF now awards about 4,000 degrees annually and
14 offers increased opportunities for students through 55
15 undergraduate degree programs, 30 graduate degree programs, and
16 five doctoral programs, and

17 WHEREAS, under President Delaney's leadership, UNF has seen
18 a significant increase in the quality of academic programs,
19 faculty, and students, and

20 WHEREAS, UNF has strengthened its academic profile and,
21 during the fall of 2017, welcomed its most academically gifted
22 freshman class with an average GPA of 4.27, and

23 WHEREAS, UNF has earned a national reputation for quality
24 and value over the last decade and has received accolades such
25 as being named one of the best colleges in the Southeast by The

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26 | Princeton Review for nine consecutive years and a Best Regional
27 | University by U.S. News & World Report for the past seven years,
28 | and being included on other prestigious lists from Kiplinger's
29 | Personal Finance, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher
30 | Education, and others, and

31 | WHEREAS, President Delaney has encouraged Transformational
32 | Learning Opportunities for students, known as TLOs on campus,
33 | including conducting research with faculty; taking part in study
34 | abroad programs, which UNF students do at more than twice the
35 | national average; and countless other life-changing experiences
36 | outside the classroom, and

37 | WHEREAS, private support to UNF has increased significantly
38 | under President Delaney's leadership with more than \$262 million
39 | raised since 2003 and more than \$130 million of that amount
40 | coming from the Power of Transformation campaign, and

41 | WHEREAS, during President Delaney's tenure, the UNF
42 | endowment has more than doubled from \$43.8 million to \$110
43 | million, and

44 | WHEREAS, President Delaney has made community engagement a
45 | hallmark of UNF education, and during the 2016-17 academic year,
46 | students dedicated nearly 1 million hours to community-based
47 | experiences, and

48 | WHEREAS, UNF currently holds the prestigious Community
49 | Engagement Classification from The Carnegie Foundation, and

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50 WHEREAS, under President Delaney's leadership and through a
51 generous private donation, UNF's honors program became the Hicks
52 Honors College in 2015, empowering and providing unique
53 opportunities for high-achieving students, and

54 WHEREAS, President Delaney oversaw the largest campus
55 expansion in UNF history, including an increase of about 2
56 million square feet in building space for new labs, classrooms,
57 research facilities, and recreational use, and

58 WHEREAS, the new construction includes award-winning
59 structures such as the Student Wellness Complex and Biological
60 Sciences Building, and UNF's commitment to sustainable
61 construction has led to 13 new and renovated structures being
62 awarded LEED status, and

63 WHEREAS, President Delaney led UNF through the transition
64 to NCAA Division I athletics beginning in 2005, and ten years
65 later, joined Osprey fans in celebrating UNF's first visit to
66 the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and

67 WHEREAS, when he retires from the presidency on May 31,
68 2018, President Delaney will have awarded more than half of the
69 95,459 UNF degrees granted since the university opened in 1972,
70 NOW, THEREFORE,

71
72 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
73 Florida:
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75 That John A. Delaney is hereby commended for his
76 extraordinary achievements as president of the University of
77 North Florida and is congratulated on the occasion of his
78 retirement.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
80 presented to University of North Florida President John A.
81 Delaney as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.