

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 26, 2019, as "Florida  
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.  
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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, FGCU has been led by four outstanding and dynamic  
15 presidents: President Roy McTarnaghan, President William C.  
16 Merwin, President Wilson G. Bradshaw, and President Michael V.  
17 Martin, and

18 WHEREAS, with the leadership and vision of Dr. Michael V.  
19 Martin and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU students have a  
20 clear pathway to success and the university is committed to  
21 maintaining college affordability, and

22 WHEREAS, FGCU's top priority is student success, which  
23 includes a strong focus on providing the necessary academic  
24 resources and laboratory facilities to timely complete degrees  
25 from one of the five colleges providing relevant programs with

26 | an accomplished faculty and dedicated staff to help students  
27 | prepare for successful careers and meet regional and statewide  
28 | workforce needs, and

29 |       WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional  
30 | university of 15,000 students and today offers 58 undergraduate,  
31 | 25 graduate, 12 certificates, and 6 doctoral programs, and

32 |       WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led to  
33 | achieving national prominence in academics, environmental  
34 | sustainability, and student service learning, with approximately  
35 | 2.66 million student service-learning hours contributed to the  
36 | Southwest Florida community since 1997, and

37 |       WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary  
38 | learning, using the region as a living laboratory while offering  
39 | students diverse opportunities to participate in meaningful  
40 | research led by their professors, and

41 |       WHEREAS, FGCU has established the Institute of  
42 | Entrepreneurship, bringing engineering and business students  
43 | together to develop products and business plans in a real-world  
44 | setting and providing learning opportunities that enhance the  
45 | university's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
46 | (STEM) education and sustainability initiatives, and

47 |       WHEREAS, FGCU is creating, refining and investing in  
48 | existing programs with innovative public-private educational  
49 | partnerships, and

HR 8013

2019

50 WHEREAS, FGCU serves and engages its surrounding community,  
51 offering a wealth of enrichment opportunities that include the  
52 FGCU Research Roadshow, visual arts, music, theater, and public  
53 radio and television, and

54 WHEREAS, FGCU's athletics programs continue to be a growing  
55 source of pride for their loyal fans with student-athletes  
56 continuing to demonstrate their academic strengths, and

57 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the  
58 lives of FGCU students and serve the surrounding community  
59 through "The FGCU Effect" and the university's longstanding  
60 commitment to promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity  
61 on campus, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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66 That March 26, 2019, is recognized as "Florida Gulf Coast  
67 University Day" in Florida.

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