

HR 8073

2019

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 24, 2019, as  
3 "Venezuelan Heritage Day" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Venezuela has a deep, rich heritage and is the  
6 home of ancient indigenous peoples like the Arawak and Carib  
7 Amerindians, and later became home to Spanish explorers who  
8 arrived to the area and founded the settlements of Valencia in  
9 1555 and Santiago de León de Caracas in 1567, and

10 WHEREAS, Venezuela's vibrant and varied geography features  
11 towering mountains, broad river plains, arid coastal plains,  
12 tropical jungles, and the world's highest, uninterrupted  
13 waterfall, el Salto Ángel, and

14 WHEREAS, settlers soon understood the potential of  
15 Venezuela's soil-rich land, with agriculture becoming its chief  
16 economic activity by the late sixteenth century, and

17 WHEREAS, the many influential individuals of Venezuela  
18 include Simón Bolívar, the Venezuelan military and political  
19 leader who was instrumental in helping Latin American countries  
20 achieve independence from the Spanish Empire; Carlos Cruz-Diez,  
21 the renowned kinetic artist; Barbara Palacios, a business-owner  
22 and Miss Universe of 1986; Carolina Herrera, a Venezuelan-  
23 American fashion designer who dressed First Ladies from  
24 Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to Michelle Obama; and Juan Guaidó,  
25 President of the National Assembly of Venezuela and is

HR 8073

2019

26 | recognized as acting President of Venezuela, and

27 |       WHEREAS, United Nations' research shows that, since 2014,  
28 | an estimated 3 million Venezuelan people, which is approximately  
29 | 10 percent of the country's population, have fled Venezuela, and  
30 | a 2018 study by the University of Miami found that more than  
31 | 200,000 Venezuelans have made Florida their home, and

32 |       WHEREAS, the number of Venezuelan students in Miami-Dade  
33 | County public schools has soared in recent years, almost  
34 | doubling to 9,873 from August 2015 to August 2017, and, as of  
35 | the latter date, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School had  
36 | 950 Venezuelan students out of a total student body of  
37 | approximately 2,500, and

38 |       WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County and in Broward County, which  
39 | is home to the Venezuelan enclave of Weston, Venezuelans are the  
40 | largest foreign group of owners of residential real estate, and

41 |       WHEREAS, the Miami Association of Realtors reports that, in  
42 | 2016, Venezuelans accounted for 17 percent of the total \$6.2  
43 | billion in South Florida residential real estate purchases by  
44 | foreign buyers, and, in the booming Doral community in Miami-  
45 | Dade County, 28 percent of the 59,000 residents, which is more  
46 | than one in four, are Venezuelan, and

47 |       WHEREAS, Central Florida is now home to 140,000 Venezuelan  
48 | residents, approximately 38,000 of whom are United States  
49 | citizens, a number that has grown over the last year as the  
50 | South American nation has spiraled into political and economic

HR 8073

2019

51 | upheaval, and

52 |       WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, Venezuelans  
53 | account for 10,221 asylum applications filed between October  
54 | 2015 and June 2016, which is up from 3,810 filed during the same  
55 | period the year before, NOW, THEREFORE,

56 |

57 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
58 | Florida:

59 |

60 |       That April 24, 2019, is recognized as "Venezuelan Heritage  
61 | Day" in Florida.