

HR 8047

2020

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the friendship between
3 Florida and Puerto Rico.

4
5 WHEREAS, the people of Puerto Rico and Florida have common
6 historical and political ties, and

7 WHEREAS, Juan Ponce de León served as Governor of Puerto
8 Rico and is credited with discovering Florida, and

9 WHEREAS, the Spanish Province of Florida was linked by
10 Spanish rule to the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico at the time
11 of its cession to the United States in 1819, and

12 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico became part of the United States due
13 to the Treaty of Paris in 1898 following the Spanish-American
14 War, and

15 WHEREAS, the Jones Act of 1917, which conferred naturalized
16 citizenship on resident of Puerto Rico, was replaced by the
17 Nationality Act of 1940, which extended the rule of jus soli, or
18 birthright citizenship, to Puerto Rico, thereby cementing United
19 States citizenship as permanent and irreversible for island-born
20 Puerto Ricans and their children for generations to come, and

21 WHEREAS, after a century of United States citizenship, the
22 main goal of the Jones Act to augment the bond with the people
23 of Puerto Rico has clearly been achieved, as more than 5 million
24 Puerto Ricans now reside stateside, and

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25 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, as
26 of 2018, there are an estimated 1,102,564 Floridians of Puerto
27 Rican heritage, and

28 WHEREAS, as residents of Florida, Puerto Ricans actively
29 participate in public affairs, make significant cultural,
30 political, and social contributions, and enhance the well-being
31 of the state and its residents, and

32 WHEREAS, the governments of Puerto Rico and Florida have a
33 strong friendship, as demonstrated in 2017 when Florida helped
34 Puerto Rico rebuild after Hurricane Maria and again in 2018 when
35 Puerto Rico reciprocated by sending aid to Florida after
36 Hurricane Michael, and

37 WHEREAS, these common ties and strong friendship bind and
38 unite the State of Florida and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
39 and their residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

40
41 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
42 Florida:

43
44 That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes that
45 there is a relationship of friendship and brotherhood between
46 our state and the Commonwealth and people of Puerto Rico,
47 expresses its gratitude for their assistance after Hurricane
48 Michael, and expresses its wish that the friendship continue to
49 prosper.