

HR 8069

2020

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of The
3 Florida Aquarium on February 25, 2020.

4
5 WHEREAS, The Florida Aquarium celebrates its 25th
6 anniversary this year, and

7 WHEREAS, since first opening to the public on March 31,
8 1995, in Tampa, The Florida Aquarium has welcomed over 16.5
9 million visitors and served 1.5 million students through
10 educational programs, many of whom might never have access to an
11 aquarium facility, and

12 WHEREAS, The Florida Aquarium, which opened as a 152,000-
13 square-foot aquarium to tell the story of water from its
14 underground source to the open sea, is now a facility of 250,000
15 square feet with more than 530 species and 8,000 animals,
16 including mammals, reptiles, birds, invertebrates, amphibians,
17 and fish, and 5,000 specimens of plants and trees, including
18 more than 100 Florida-native species, and

19 WHEREAS, because of its role in protecting animals, The
20 Florida Aquarium has received accreditation by the Association
21 of Zoos and Aquariums for 23 years of its existence, and

22 WHEREAS, to increase the coral's genetic diversity and
23 ultimately create more resilient coral reefs, The Florida
24 Aquarium has reproduced staghorn coral and raised more than

25 | 5,000 staghorn larvae to maturity in nurseries in Apollo Beach,
 26 | and

27 | WHEREAS, The Florida Aquarium's commitment to coral
 28 | conservation has resulted in the outplanting of those staghorn
 29 | coral in the Florida Reef Tract, to protect and restore this
 30 | national treasure, and

31 | WHEREAS, The Florida Aquarium made history last year by
 32 | being the first in the world to successfully spawn the
 33 | functionally extinct pillar coral in a laboratory, and

34 | WHEREAS, in 2019, The Florida Aquarium and several partners
 35 | opened the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Center, which includes one
 36 | of Florida's deepest turtle-exclusive dive pools, to
 37 | rehabilitate sea turtles and further the aquarium's commitment
 38 | to preserve and protect marine environments, and

39 | WHEREAS, in addition to its mission to protect aquatic
 40 | animals and the ecosystems in this state, The Florida Aquarium
 41 | also offers world-class entertainment, with guest experiences,
 42 | animal enrichments and interactions, guest dive experiences,
 43 | wild dolphin excursions, and so much more, NOW, THEREFORE,

44 |
 45 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 46 | Florida:

47 |
 48 | That the Florida House of Representatives salutes The
 49 | Florida Aquarium for 25 years of commitment to the preservation

HR 8069

2020

50 and protection of Florida's natural habitats and ecological
51 systems and recognizes the 25th anniversary of The Florida
52 Aquarium on February 25, 2020.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
54 presented to Kimberly Bruce, The Florida Aquarium Board of
55 Directors Chair, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
56 herein.