

HR 8093

2021

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 26, 2021, as "Refugee  
3 Day at the Florida Capitol" and June 20, 2021, as  
4 "World Refugee Day" in Florida.  
5

6 WHEREAS, there has been a long bipartisan tradition,  
7 keeping with our nation's values and respect for human rights,  
8 in welcoming refugees to the United States, and

9 WHEREAS, the economic and social strength of the United  
10 States and the State of Florida derives in large part from the  
11 diversity of its citizenry and the strength of those individuals  
12 who have left their countries to come to a new home, and

13 WHEREAS, refugees do not leave their home countries by  
14 choice but rather have been forced to flee due to dangerous  
15 circumstances and often out of fear of persecution for reasons  
16 of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership  
17 in a particular social group, and

18 WHEREAS, Florida has helped resettle countless refugees  
19 starting as early as 1960 with Operation Peter Pan, which  
20 brought more than 14,000 unaccompanied Cuban minors to the  
21 state, and

22 WHEREAS, Florida has helped resettle refugees from  
23 Southeast Asia, including Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, and

24 WHEREAS, refugee status is granted to individuals who  
25 demonstrate the greatest and most immediate need for protection

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26 | and, since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, the United  
27 | States has admitted more than 3.1 million refugees, with Florida  
28 | being fourth in the nation for resettling refugees between 2002  
29 | and 2017, and

30 |       WHEREAS, between 1972 and 1981, more than 55,000 Haitians  
31 | came to Florida, many of whom settled in the neighborhood of  
32 | Little Haiti, and today Florida is home to the largest number of  
33 | Haitians in the United States, and

34 |       WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is one of the top locations in  
35 | the United States for people coming from Central America,  
36 | particularly Nicaraguans and Costa Ricans, and South America to  
37 | settle, and

38 |       WHEREAS, refugees contribute to our economy in various  
39 | ways, such as buying or selling homes, being small business  
40 | owners, paying taxes, innovating and sharing their creativity,  
41 | and becoming a part of the state's workforce, NOW, THEREFORE,

42 |

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

45 |

46 |       That March 26, 2021, marks the third annual "Refugee Day at  
47 | the Florida Capitol" and June 20, 2021, is recognized as "World  
48 | Refugee Day" in Florida.