

HR 8023

2022

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating January 25, 2022, as "Florida
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

4
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 10th 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: Dr. Roy McTarnaghan, Dr. William C. Merwin, Dr.
16 Wilson G. Bradshaw, and Dr. Michael V. Martin, and

17 WHEREAS, with the leadership and vision of Dr. Michael V.
18 Martin and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU provides students
19 with a clear pathway to success and maintains college
20 affordability for all of its students, and

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

26 | staff to help students gain the necessary skills and abilities
 27 | to meet regional and statewide workforce needs, and

28 | WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional
 29 | university of more than 15,000 students and today offers 63
 30 | undergraduate, 26 masters, and 7 doctoral programs, and

31 | WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led to the
 32 | university achieving national prominence in academics,
 33 | environmental sustainability, and student service learning, with
 34 | 3.7 million hours contributed to the Southwest Florida community
 35 | since 1997, and

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

40 | WHEREAS, FGCU has established The Water School, which will
 41 | open its doors in 2022, to create a University of Distinction
 42 | program that will provide FGCU the foundation to pursue the
 43 | designation of a recognized state and national leader in the
 44 | area of water, focusing on local water issues to address
 45 | challenges throughout the world, and

46 | WHEREAS, FGCU continues to work collaboratively with the
 47 | State University System to meet regional and statewide workforce
 48 | needs in the healthcare arena by graduating career-ready nurses
 49 | with one of the highest first-time passage rates on the required

50 nursing licensure examination for a university in the State
 51 University System, and

52 WHEREAS, FGCU has established the Daveler and Kauanui
 53 School of Entrepreneurship, where students are achieving success
 54 in securing great jobs, creating new startup companies,
 55 transitioning to family businesses, and beginning artistic
 56 careers, leading to recognition by the Princeton Review, which
 57 named it the best such school in Florida and 22nd in the nation,
 58 and

59 WHEREAS, FGCU strives to bring diversification of the
 60 economy to the region it serves through innovation in
 61 agribusiness, construction management, environmental
 62 engineering, and public health, and

63 WHEREAS, FGCU serves and engages its surrounding community,
 64 offering a wealth of enrichment opportunities that include
 65 visual arts, music, theater, and public radio and television,
 66 and

67 WHEREAS, FGCU's athletics programs continue to be a growing
 68 source of pride for their loyal fans with student athletes
 69 continuing to demonstrate their academic strengths, and

70 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the
 71 lives of FGCU students and serve the surrounding community
 72 through "The FGCU Effect" and the university's longstanding
 73 commitment to service, NOW, THEREFORE,

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75 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
76 | Florida:

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78 | That January 25, 2022, is designated as "Florida Gulf Coast
79 | University Day" in Florida.

80 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
81 | presented to Michael V. Martin, Ph.D., president of Florida Gulf
82 | Coast University as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
83 | herein.