

HR 8069

2022

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating April 2, 2022, as "Puerto  
3 Rican Heritage Day" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans and their ancestors have made many  
6 great contributions, in all fields of endeavor, to the state,  
7 the nation, and humanity, and

8 WHEREAS, in March 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon, the first  
9 Governor of Puerto Rico, sailed with a crew from Puerto Rico,  
10 eventually discovering and naming Florida on April 2, 1513, and

11 WHEREAS, other Puerto Rican ancestors opened the doors to  
12 the development of Florida and the United States as they  
13 introduced Christianity as well as horses, cows, pigs, oranges,  
14 and other goods that advanced civilization more than 100 years  
15 before the Pilgrims arrived in North America, and

16 WHEREAS, a contingent of Spanish and Puerto Rican ancestors  
17 served and fought in the American Revolutionary War under the  
18 military leadership of Don Bernado de Gálvez, Governor of  
19 Louisiana, who provided arms, food, funding, and supplies to  
20 assist in securing independence for the United States, and

21 WHEREAS, the Spanish province of Florida was linked by  
22 Spanish rule to Puerto Rico and Cuba at the time of Florida's  
23 cession to the United States, and

24 WHEREAS, there are 5.8 million Puerto Ricans residing  
 25 stateside and in Puerto Rico, with approximately 1.2 million  
 26 Puerto Ricans residing in Florida, and

27 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans are the second largest Hispanic  
 28 group in the United States who have sacrificed and contributed  
 29 to building and fighting for the nation, and

30 WHEREAS, the United States 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, also  
 31 known as the Borinqueneers, a group of military men from Puerto  
 32 Rico, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the  
 33 highest honor bestowed by the United States Congress, and the  
 34 Governor's Veterans Service Award by former Florida Governor  
 35 Rick Scott as many Borinqueneers now reside in Florida, and

36 WHEREAS, there are several courageous Puerto Rican  
 37 recipients of the United States Medal of Honor and many other  
 38 Puerto Ricans who have received awards for their loyal and brave  
 39 service to and defense of the United States, and

40 WHEREAS, many Puerto Ricans serve in leadership and hold  
 41 official positions in state and federal government, and

42 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans who reside in Florida actively  
 43 participate in public affairs and make significant cultural,  
 44 political, artistic, and social contributions that enhance the  
 45 overall welfare of Florida and its residents, and

46 WHEREAS, April 2, 2022, marks the 509<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
 47 founding of Florida by Puerto Rican ancestors and the beginning  
 48 of their contributions to the state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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50 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
51 Florida:

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53       That April 2, 2022, is designated as "Puerto Rican Heritage  
54 Day" in Florida.