

HR 8063

2023

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating September 2023 as "Cuban  
3 Heritage Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Cuba comprises an archipelago of nearly 1,600  
6 islands, islets, and cays, with a combined area three-fourths as  
7 large as Florida, and

8 WHEREAS, Cuba was claimed by Christopher Columbus for Spain  
9 in 1492, displacing aboriginal tribes such as the Guanahatabey,  
10 Ciboney, and Taíno who inhabited the island, and

11 WHEREAS, Cuba became the Spanish Empire's most important  
12 source of raw sugar in the 18th century and later earned the  
13 nickname "Pearl of the Antilles," and

14 WHEREAS, Spain retained rule of Cuba until 1898, when it  
15 was defeated by the United States and Cuban forces in the  
16 Spanish-American War, and

17 WHEREAS, during the Spanish-American War, Florida served as  
18 the base of operations for the Cuban exile community, following  
19 in the footsteps of renowned Cuban author, philosopher, and  
20 journalist José Martí whose patriotic writing envisioning a free  
21 Cuba inspired the next generation of freedom fighters, and

22 WHEREAS, after Cuba achieved independence from Spain, the  
23 culture, politics, and economies of the United States and Cuba  
24 became closely intertwined, and

25           WHEREAS, more than one million Cubans have fled to the  
 26 United States since 1959, many of whom have established their  
 27 lives in Florida, and

28           WHEREAS, presently, Cuban immigrants comprise approximately  
 29 23 percent of the population of Florida, making Cubans the  
 30 largest group of immigrants to Florida, and

31           WHEREAS, acclaimed Cuban-Americans include economist George  
 32 J. Borjas; businessman and advocate for democracy and freedom  
 33 the late Jorge Mas Canosa; Olympic gymnast Annia Portuondo  
 34 Hatch; Emmy-winning actor Oscar Nuñez; Grammy-winning singer  
 35 Armando Christian Pérez who is otherwise known as "Pitbull";  
 36 celebrity chef and global restaurateur the late Carl Albert  
 37 Ruiz; singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman Gloria  
 38 Estefan; singer the late Celia Cruz who is known as the "Queen  
 39 of Salsa Music"; Central Intelligence Officer Félix Rodríguez  
 40 who earned the rare Intelligence Star of Valor; United States  
 41 Senators Marco Antonio Rubio and Melquiades "Mel" Rafael Ruiz  
 42 Martínez; and Governor Robert "Bob" Martinez who is the first  
 43 person of Spanish descent to be elected Governor of Florida, and

44           WHEREAS, Cuba's roots and influence remain strong today,  
 45 with various aspects of Cuban culture present in the everyday  
 46 lives of Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

47  
 48 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 49 Florida:

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51           That September 2023 is designated as "Cuban Heritage Month"

52 in Florida, and all communities and individuals throughout the

53 state are encouraged to honor Cuban and Cuban-American culture.