

By Senator Harrell

31-00277-24

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending and celebrating the life and contributions of musician, environmentalist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Jimmy Buffett.

WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, on Christmas Day in 1947 and moved to Florida in 1971 at the invitation of fellow musician and Florida resident Jerry Jeff Walker, settling in Key West in 1972, and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett honed his art as a singer-songwriter in the bars of Key West, and the laid-back island lifestyle of the Florida Keys was the foundation on which he built his signature tropical rock sound, and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Jimmy Buffett released the album "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Crustacean," which included the hit single "Grapefruit - Juicy Fruit," and used the proceeds to buy his first boat, and

WHEREAS, subsequent albums included "Living and Dying in 3/4 Time" (with the hit "Come Monday"), "Havana Daydreamin'," "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" (with his mega-hit "Margaritaville"), "Son of a Son of a Sailor" (with the hit "Cheeseburger in Paradise"), "Volcano," and many more featuring songs that became part of the pop music lexicon, and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett's music has attracted legions of fans who call themselves "Parrot Heads" and who gather at an annual weeklong "Meeting of the Minds" festival, and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett was also the author of three books that placed on the New York Times Best Seller list and the co-author of two children's books with his eldest daughter Savannah

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30 Buffett, and

31 WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett's entrepreneurial enterprises  
32 include his own beer brand, LandShark Lager, in partnership with  
33 Anheuser-Busch; casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and  
34 Biloxi, Mississippi; retirement communities called Latitude  
35 Margaritaville in Daytona Beach and WaterSound in Florida, and  
36 Hilton Head Island in South Carolina; and the Jimmy Buffett's  
37 Margaritaville hospitality company and Cheeseburger in Paradise  
38 restaurant chain, and

39 WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett was an ardent environmentalist,  
40 founding the Save the Manatee Club, a nonprofit organization  
41 devoted to raising awareness about the plight of Florida's state  
42 marine mammal, with former Governor Bob Graham in 1981, and  
43 supporting other causes devoted to endangered and threatened  
44 species and habitats in Florida, and

45 WHEREAS, as a philanthropist, Jimmy Buffett performed  
46 concerts for servicemembers, headlined hurricane relief  
47 concerts, performed a free concert in Gulf Shores, Alabama,  
48 after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and provided support for  
49 efforts to deliver supplies and relief in the aftermath of the  
50 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and

51 WHEREAS, in 2015, the University of Miami bestowed an  
52 honorary doctorate in music upon Jimmy Buffett, who spoke at  
53 that year's graduation ceremony, and

54 WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett died of complications from a rare  
55 form of skin cancer on September 1, 2023, at the age of 76 at  
56 his home in Sag Harbor, New York, NOW, THEREFORE,

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58 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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60 That Jimmy Buffett's free-spirited life and significant  
61 contributions to national and state culture be commended and  
62 celebrated.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
64 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the family of  
65 Jimmy Buffett as a tangible token of the sentiments of the  
66 Florida Senate.