

HR 8065

2024

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing August 30, 2024, as "Jimmy Buffett Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, on Christmas Day in 1946 and traveled to Florida in 1971 at the invitation of fellow musician 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 20 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 "Parrotheads" and who gather at an annual weeklong "Meeting of the Minds" festival, and

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26 WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett was also the author of five books,
27 three of which were placed on the New York Times Bestseller
28 list, and the co-author of two children's books with his eldest
29 daughter, Savannah Buffett, and

30 WHEREAS, Jimmy Buffett's entrepreneurial enterprises
31 include a signature beer brand, LandShark Lager, in partnership
32 with Anheuser-Busch; casinos in Bossier City, Louisiana, and
33 Tulsa, Oklahoma; retirement communities called Latitude
34 Margaritaville in Daytona Beach and WaterSound in Florida, and
35 Hilton Head Island in South Carolina; and the Jimmy Buffett's
36 Margaritaville hospitality company and Cheeseburger in Paradise
37 restaurant chain, and

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

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

50 WHEREAS, the SFC Charitable Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3)
 51 not-for-profit organization also known as "Singing for Change,"
 52 was created by Jimmy Buffett in 1995 and received one dollar
 53 from each ticket Jimmy Buffett sold at his shows, and

54 WHEREAS, Singing for Change funds nonprofit community
 55 organizations that inspire personal growth, community
 56 integration, and promote sustainable and viable self-sufficient
 57 communities; focuses its resources on supporting grassroots
 58 organizations that rely strongly on collaborative efforts that
 59 create lasting change in the communities they serve; and
 60 promotes positive change by helping people, organizations, and
 61 communities become smarter, safer, stronger, healthier, and
 62 whole, and

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

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

69
 70 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 71 Florida:

72
 73 That August 30, 2024, is recognized as "Jimmy Buffett Day"
 74 in Florida to celebrate the life and music of Jimmy Buffett,

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75 | whose free-spirited life and significant contributions to
76 | national and state culture are commended and celebrated.