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House Resolution

A resolution designating February 21, 2024, as  
"FAMU Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida's only public historically black college and university (HBCU), was founded on October 3, 1887, named a land-grant institution in 1891, designated as an institution of higher education in 1909, and a university in 1953, and

WHEREAS, academic components of the university consist of 98 undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and professional degree programs, 7 colleges, and 7 schools, including the colleges of Agriculture and Food Sciences; Education; Engineering; Law; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Science and Technology; and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities; and the schools of Allied Health Sciences; Architecture and Engineering Technology; Business and Industry; the Environment; Graduate Studies and Research; Journalism and Graphic Communication; and Nursing, and

WHEREAS, under the dedicated leadership of FAMU's 12th President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., the FAMU Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, FAMU rose in the U.S. News Report World Report 2023-2024 "Top 100" National Public Universities rankings from 103 just a year ago to 91, ranked 21 on the Social Mobility Index, remains the highest ranked public HBCU for the fifth

26 consecutive year, and ranked 3rd among all public and private  
 27 HBCUs in the country, and

28 WHEREAS, with more than 9,200 enrolled students, FAMU  
 29 experienced a record number of applications in 2023, exceeding  
 30 23,800 in a single year with nearly 21,000 first-time-in-college  
 31 applicants, and

32 WHEREAS, during the 2023-2024 academic year, FAMU continues  
 33 to elevate student success through retention, graduation rates,  
 34 and degree productivity by awarding nearly 2,500 degrees since  
 35 the 2022-2023 academic year, and

36 WHEREAS, FAMU launched its immersive virtual Metaverse  
 37 world, "The Rattlerverse," the first official Metaverse for an  
 38 HBCU within Meta Horizon Worlds, offering futuristic  
 39 opportunities to explore FAMU's campus, culture, and current  
 40 events, and

41 WHEREAS, FAMU maintains its commitment to valuable research  
 42 as evidenced by faculty and staff who reported a record year in  
 43 research awards, including a multi-year grant with the U.S.  
 44 Department of Transportation to lead a consortium and establish  
 45 a new Tier One University Transportation Center; a grant from  
 46 the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development  
 47 Agency for the FAMU Florida Small Business Development Center to  
 48 establish the Florida Panhandle Capital Readiness Collaborative  
 49 across 12 counties to assist aspiring entrepreneurs; and support  
 50 from the Institute of Museums and Library Services and the

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51 Mellon Foundation for the Meek-Eaton Black Archives Research  
52 Center and Museum to help train museum professionals and  
53 increase public access to digital collections of African  
54 American history and culture, and

55 WHEREAS, College of Agriculture of Food Sciences Professors  
56 Lambert Kanga, Ph.D., and Odemari Mbuya, Ph.D., were awarded  
57 grants for their research in "Developing the Next Generation of  
58 Minority Leaders in Pest Management for Agriculture and Food in  
59 a Changing Climate" and industrial hemp and chestnuts, both  
60 considered to be economically viable and climate-smart crop  
61 options, respectively, and

62 WHEREAS, the dynamic FAMU Concert Choir continues to  
63 perform for audiences around the world and received an  
64 invitation to be a part of the 2023 Festival Tour of Vienna  
65 Sings in Austria, and

66 WHEREAS, with 14 National Collegiate Athletic Association  
67 programs, FAMU Athletics had a stellar year of champions as the  
68 FAMU Women's Tennis Team won the Southwestern Athletic  
69 Conference (SWAC) championship, the Baseball Team won its first  
70 SWAC Baseball Tournament Championship, the Women's Cross-Country  
71 Team won its first SWAC Championship in its second year of  
72 membership, and after dedicating the football field at Bragg  
73 Memorial Stadium to Ken Riley, an alumnus and Professional  
74 Football Hall of Famer, the Football Team won its first SWAC and  
75 Cricket Celebration Bowl HBCU National Championship Titles, and

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76 WHEREAS, FAMU honors the life and legacy of Barbara A.  
77 Cohen-Pippin, who built a career spanning more than 40 years,  
78 holding impactful roles in higher education and legislative  
79 affairs; came out of retirement to become Director of Government  
80 Relations at FAMU; and, among her many accomplishments, led the  
81 effort to attain construction funding for the Center for Access  
82 and Student Success and secured a program modification to  
83 facilitate construction of FAMU Towers that will be utilized for  
84 decades to come, NOW, THEREFORE,

85

86 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
87 Florida:

88

89 That in recognition of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
90 University's contributions as an outstanding institution of  
91 higher education, February 21, 2024, is designated as "FAMU Day"  
92 in Florida.

93

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
95 presented to Larry Robinson, Ph.D., President of Florida  
96 Agricultural and Mechanical University, as a tangible token of  
the sentiments expressed herein.