

HR 8043

2026

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating February 25, 2026, as "Puerto
3 Rico Day in Tallahassee" at the State Capitol and
4 recognizing the significant contributions of Puerto
5 Ricans to Florida's cultural mosaic.

6
7 WHEREAS, Florida is home to nearly 1.2 million proud Puerto
8 Rican United States citizens, fostering a sense of unity and
9 shared experiences in the Sunshine State, and

10 WHEREAS, Florida embraces a diverse population, including a
11 thriving Puerto Rican community that contributes substantially
12 to our state, and

13 WHEREAS, the storied history of Puerto Rico includes the
14 Spanish American War, when the island became a territory of the
15 United States in 1898, shaping its relationship with the United
16 States Federal Government, and

17 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans became United States citizens under
18 the Jones-Shafroth Act in 1917, contributing to the historical
19 ties between Puerto Rico and the United States, and

20 WHEREAS, Puerto Rico, as a Commonwealth of the United
21 States since 1952, holds a unique status that contributes to its
22 distinctive national identity, and

23 WHEREAS, the distinguished service of the 65th Infantry
24 Regiment, known as the "Borinqueneers," during various
25 conflicts, earned them the Congressional Gold Medal, making them

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26 | the first all-Hispanic unit to receive the award, showcasing
27 | their valor and dedication to the United States, and

28 | WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has made remarkable achievements in
29 | art, with renowned artists like Francisco Oller, a leading
30 | figure in the 19th-century art movement, contributing to the
31 | cultural landscape, and

32 | WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has made significant contributions to
33 | science, with notable figures like Dr. Antonia Novello, who
34 | served as the 14th Surgeon General of the United States, leading
35 | groundbreaking advancements in public health, and

36 | WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has produced distinguished public
37 | servants, including Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic
38 | and first Puerto Rican Justice of the Supreme Court of the
39 | United States, whose tenure represents a historic milestone in
40 | the nation's judicial history, and

41 | WHEREAS, the island's rich sports legacy, epitomized by
42 | legendary figures like Roberto Clemente Walker, a humanitarian
43 | and baseball Hall of Famer, with more than 40 schools and 200
44 | parks named in his honor, has left an enduring impact on the
45 | world of athletics, and

46 | WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have made significant contributions
47 | to Florida's political landscape, exemplified by leaders such as
48 | Anthony Suarez, a former Member of the Florida House of
49 | Representatives, who pioneered the first Puerto Rico Day at the
50 | Florida State Capitol in 2000, establishing a tradition of

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51 | honoring Puerto Rican heritage and political influence, and
52 | WHEREAS, the cultural exchange between Puerto Rico and
53 | Florida has strengthened the bonds of friendship and cooperation
54 | and has enhanced the overall well-being of our communities, and
55 | WHEREAS, the celebration of Puerto Rico Day in Tallahassee
56 | offers an opportunity to recognize and celebrate Puerto Rico's
57 | rich cultural history, traditions, and achievements, fostering
58 | unity among all Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

59 |

60 | Be It Resolved by the Florida House of Representatives:

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62 | That February 25, 2026, is designated as "Puerto Rico Day
63 | in Tallahassee" at the State Capitol, recognizing the
64 | significant contributions of Puerto Ricans to Florida's cultural
65 | mosaic.