

HR 8087

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House Resolution

A resolution designating August 9, 2026, as "Bob Graham Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, born on November 9, 1936, Daniel Robert "Bob" Graham was raised on a cattle and dairy farm deep in the Florida Everglades, attended Miami Senior High School, earned his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Florida in 1959, and earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1962, and

WHEREAS, after serving in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, Bob Graham was elected as Florida's 38th Governor in 1978, and his career in state politics enabled him to personally witness Florida's rise from a rural Southern backwater to an economic and political juggernaut, and

WHEREAS, in Governor Graham's first term, led by First Lady Adele Graham, Florida became a national leader in providing in-home services to seniors, creating a statewide network of services, assuring access to assistance for needy elders in the metropolitan areas and to those in the most rural of Florida's counties, and allowing more families to live out their days at home, and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Governor Graham instituted the Conservation and Recreation Act, the premier land acquisition

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26 | program in the country, which led to the Preservation 2000
27 | Program and the current Florida Forever Program, and

28 | WHEREAS, in 1981, Governor Graham established the Save Our
29 | Rivers program, which raised \$320 million over 10 years and
30 | enabled the water management districts to acquire 1.7 million
31 | acres of land for water conservation; established the Save Our
32 | Coast program, which resulted in the purchase of 73 miles of
33 | coastline, protecting natural Florida beauty for future
34 | generations; and, with singer Jimmy Buffett, founded Save the
35 | Manatee, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation
36 | and recovery of the manatee species as defined by the federal
37 | Endangered Species Act of 1973, and

38 | WHEREAS, in 1982, Governor Graham, together with renowned
39 | environmental champion Marjory Stoneman Douglas and others,
40 | developed what became the Save Our Everglades program to restore
41 | Everglades National Park, which was announced on August 9, 1983,
42 | and

43 | WHEREAS, in 1984, Governor Graham enacted the Warren
44 | Henderson Wetlands Protection Act, Florida's first law directed
45 | specifically at preservation and protection of wetlands, and

46 | WHEREAS, at the end of his Governorship in 1987, Bob Graham
47 | was sworn in to the United States Senate, where he was known not
48 | only for his grasp of domestic issues such as Everglades
49 | restoration, immigration, and off-shore drilling but also for
50 | his expertise in foreign policy and intelligence, serving as

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51 chair of the Intelligence Committee and co-chair of the Joint
52 Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After
53 the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, and

54 WHEREAS, ever mindful of his undergraduate alma mater,
55 where he was president of the Epsilon Zeta chapter of Sigma Nu
56 fraternity, served as chancellor of the student honor court, and
57 was inducted into Blue Key and the University Hall of Fame, Bob
58 Graham established the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at
59 the University of Florida in 2006 to continue his legacy of
60 leadership and public service as well as to train the next
61 generations of Florida leaders, and

62 WHEREAS, in 2011, Bob Graham established the Florida
63 Conservation Coalition, comprised of concerned Floridians
64 representing various organizations, for the purpose of
65 advocating for positive environmental initiatives and opposing
66 adverse proposals, and

67 WHEREAS, throughout his 38 consecutive years in public
68 office and nearly 20 years thereafter as an author, speaker, and
69 advocate, Bob Graham worked tirelessly to further environmental
70 preservation, economic opportunity, public education, national
71 security, and civil rights, and his outstanding record of
72 service has established Bob Graham as one of the most
73 accomplished public figures in the history of this state, NOW,
74 THEREFORE,

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76 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
77 | Florida:

78 |

79 | That, in recognition of the date on which the Save Our
80 | Everglades program was founded, August 9, 2026, is designated as
81 | "Bob Graham Day" in the State of Florida.