

HR 8041

2023

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 2, 2023, as the 510th
3 anniversary of the founding of the State of Florida by
4 ancestors of Puerto Rico.

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6 WHEREAS, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León, the first
7 Governor of Puerto Rico, is credited with discovering Florida in
8 1513, and

9 WHEREAS, Puerto Rican ancestors brought horses, pigs,
10 seeds, and other agricultural goods to Florida that helped
11 develop the state about 100 years before Pilgrims arrived in
12 North America, and

13 WHEREAS, before Florida's cession to the United States
14 under the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819, Florida was linked to the
15 islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico by Spanish rule, and

16 WHEREAS, ancestors of Spain and Puerto Rico served and
17 fought in the American Revolutionary War under the military
18 leadership of Spanish nobleman Don Bernardo de Gálvez, and

19 WHEREAS, in 1898, Puerto Rico became part of the United
20 States under the Treaty of Paris following the Spanish-American
21 War, and

22 WHEREAS, the Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917, subsequently
23 replaced by the Nationality Act of 1940, conferred and cemented
24 United States citizenship for island-born Puerto Ricans and
25 their children for generations to come, and

26 WHEREAS, there are currently about 5.8 million Puerto
 27 Ricans residing in the United States, with approximately 1.2
 28 million Puerto Ricans residing in Florida, and

29 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans are the second largest Hispanic
 30 group in the United States, and

31 WHEREAS, the United States 65th Infantry Regiment, also
 32 known as the Borinqueneers, a group of military men from Puerto
 33 Rico, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, and

34 WHEREAS, there are several courageous Puerto Rican
 35 recipients of the United States Medal of Honor and many other
 36 Puerto Ricans who have received awards for their loyal and brave
 37 service to and defense of the United States, and

38 WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans continue to enrich the State of
 39 Florida through their commitment to friendship and community,

40 NOW, THEREFORE,

41
 42 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 43 Florida:

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 45 That April 2, 2023, is recognized as the 510th anniversary
 46 of the founding of the State of Florida by ancestors of Puerto
 47 Rico.