

HR 8077

2024

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating January 23, 2024, as "Florida
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

4
5 WHEREAS, in May 1991, then-Governor Lawton Chiles signed
6 into law a bill passed by the Florida Legislature authorizing
7 the creation of Florida's tenth public university, Florida Gulf
8 Coast University (FGCU), to provide higher education
9 opportunities and workforce development in the previously
10 underserved region of Southwest Florida, and

11 WHEREAS, FGCU opened its doors to 2,584 students on August
12 25, 1997, and held its first commencement in May 1998 with 81
13 graduates, and

14 WHEREAS, FGCU has been led by five outstanding and dynamic
15 presidents: Dr. Roy McTarnaghan, Dr. William C. Merwin, Dr.
16 Wilson G. Bradshaw, Dr. Michael V. Martin, and Dr. Aysegul
17 Timur, and

18 WHEREAS, under the leadership and vision of Dr. Aysegul
19 Timur and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU strives for students
20 to possess an entrepreneurial spirit, and graduates to be well
21 prepared for productive lives as civically engaged and
22 environmentally conscious citizens with successful careers, and

23 WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional
24 university of over 16,000 students and today offers 64

25 | undergraduate, 26 graduate, and 7 doctoral programs, and 17
 26 | academic certificates, and

27 | WHEREAS, the pathways to student success at FGCU have led
 28 | to achieving national prominence in student service learning as
 29 | one of the only public institutions to make service learning a
 30 | graduation requirement for all undergraduate students, with over
 31 | 4 million hours contributed to the Southwest Florida community
 32 | since 1997, and

33 | WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary
 34 | learning with restored or preserved nature making up half of its
 35 | 800-acre campus to serve as a living laboratory for learning
 36 | while offering students diverse opportunities to participate in
 37 | meaningful research led by their professors, and

38 | WHEREAS, FGCU has established The Water School, which
 39 | opened its doors in 2022 to create a university of distinction
 40 | located in the midst of Florida's complex freshwater and
 41 | saltwater systems, and is uniquely positioned to explore water-
 42 | based issues including the health of waterways that impact
 43 | surrounding ecosystems, regional and state economies, and the
 44 | people who rely on water for life and leisure, making FGCU a
 45 | catalyst for change in the community and throughout the world,
 46 | and

47 | WHEREAS, FGCU continues to work collaboratively with the
 48 | State University System to meet regional and statewide workforce
 49 | needs by graduating career-ready students from the Marieb

50 College School of Nursing with six programs and a 100 percent
 51 first-time passage rate on the required nursing licensure
 52 examination in 2018 and 2019, and

53 WHEREAS, the FGCU Alumni Association has 22 chapters with
 54 approximately 43,000 members, with 2,000 businesses in Southwest
 55 Florida started by alumni and approximately 70 percent of the
 56 alumni working in their field of study, and

57 WHEREAS, FGCU strives to bring diversification of the
 58 economy to the region it serves through innovation in
 59 agribusiness, construction management, and environmental
 60 engineering, and

61 WHEREAS, FGCU serves and engages its surrounding community,
 62 offering a wealth of enrichment opportunities that include
 63 visual arts, music, theater, and public radio and television,
 64 and

65 WHEREAS, the athletic programs at FGCU are a growing source
 66 of pride for their loyal fans with nine programs having earned a
 67 top-25 national ranking and student athletes continuing to
 68 demonstrate their academic strengths, and

69 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the
 70 lives of FGCU students as they transition from high school to
 71 college to career and serve the surrounding community through
 72 "Turning Ideas Into Impact" and the university's longstanding
 73 commitment to service, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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78 | That January 23, 2024, is designated as "Florida Gulf Coast
79 | University Day" in Florida.

80 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
81 | presented to Aysegul Timur, Ph.D., president of Florida Gulf
82 | Coast University as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
83 | herein.