1         A bill to be entitled

2         An act relating to legal holidays and special observances;

3         creating s. 683.26, F.S.; designating February 6 as

4         "Ronald Reagan Day"; authorizing the Governor to issue

5         proclamations commemorating the occasion; creating s.

6         683.33, F.S.; designating January 6 as "Three Kings Day"

7         and authorizing local governments to issue proclamations

8         commemorating the occasion; providing an effective date.

9

10        WHEREAS, President Ronald Wilson Reagan, a man of humble

11   background, worked throughout his life serving freedom and

12   advancing the public good, having distinguished himself during

13   his professional life as an entertainer, union leader, and

14   corporate spokesman before being elected Governor of California

15   and then President of the United States of America, and

16        WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan served with honor and distinction

17   for two terms as the 40th President of the United States of

18   America, earning the distinction of being elected to his second

19   term of office by three-fifths of the electorate and by 49 of

20   the 50 states in the union, a record unsurpassed in the history

21   of American presidential elections, and

22        WHEREAS, in 1981, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as

23   President, he inherited a disillusioned nation that was shackled

24   by rampant inflation and high unemployment, and

25        WHEREAS, despite the difficult circumstances he inherited,

26   Ronald Reagan's approach to leading the nation was to exemplify

27   an unwavering faith in American ideals, most memorably by

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28 invoking his long-held vision of America as "a shining city on a

29 hill," destined to realize an ever brighter future, and

30      WHEREAS, during his presidency, Ronald Reagan worked in a

31 bipartisan manner to enact his bold agenda of restoring

32 accountability and common sense to the Federal Government, which

33 led to an unprecedented economic expansion and opportunity for

34 millions of Americans, and

35      WHEREAS, President Reagan's commitment to an active social

36 policy agenda for the nation's children helped to lower crime

37 and reduce drug use in our neighborhoods, and

38      WHEREAS, President Reagan's commitment to our armed forces

39 contributed to the restoration of pride in America and its

40 values and those cherished by the free world and prepared the

41 nation's armed forces to meet the challenges of the 21st

42 century, and

43      WHEREAS, President Reagan's vision of "peace through

44 strength" led to the end of the Cold War and the ultimate demise

45 of the Soviet Union, thus guaranteeing basic human rights for

46 millions of people, and

47      WHEREAS, February 6, 2007, was the 96th anniversary of

48 Ronald Reagan's birth, and June 5, 2007, will mark the third

49 anniversary of his passing, which generated an outpouring of

50 love and respect unprecedented in a generation, NOW, THEREFORE,

51

52 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

53

54      Section 1.  Section 683.26, Florida Statutes, is created to

55 read:

56  683.26  Ronald Reagan Day.--

57      (1)  February 6 of each year is designated as "Ronald

58  Reagan Day."

59      (2)  The Governor may issue annually a proclamation

60  designating February 6 as "Ronald Reagan Day." Public officials,

61  schools, private organizations, and all citizens are encouraged

62  to honor the legacy of opportunity and optimism left by

63  America's 40th President by commemorating Ronald Reagan Day on

64  February 6 of each year.

65      Section 2.  Section 683.33, Florida Statutes, is created to

66  read:

67      683.33  Three Kings Day.--

68      (1)  January 6 of each year is designated as "Three Kings

69  Day."

70      (2)  Local governments may annually issue a proclamation

71  commemorating January 6 as "Three Kings Day" and calling upon

72  the residents of this state to observe the occasion.

73      Section 3.  This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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