

HR 9137

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution celebrating Franco-Floridian
3 relationships and recognizing Florida's rich French
4 heritage.

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6 WHEREAS, in 2012, the celebration of the 450th anniversary
7 of a French presence in Florida commenced with recognition of
8 the first French expedition, led by Jean Ribault, which landed
9 in Florida in the spring of 1562, and

10 WHEREAS, the celebration continues through 2015 in
11 recognition of a second expedition which, with the help of the
12 Timucuan, led to the founding of the first French settlement on
13 American soil, Fort Caroline near what is now Jacksonville, on
14 June 30, 1564, and

15 WHEREAS, in October 2012, the French-American Chamber of
16 Commerce in Miami, in partnership with the French Consulate,
17 organized the first Miami-Nice Jazz Festival, which highlighted
18 the partnership between the cities of Nice and Miami, which have
19 been sister cities since 1963, and

20 WHEREAS, the number of sister-city relationships between
21 Floridian and French communities has grown to 15, with the
22 signing of a sister-city agreement between Cognac and the
23 Village of Pinecrest, which will focus on educational
24 initiatives, and

25 WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of international
26 cooperation, public schools in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties
27 now offer a unique bilingual curriculum in French and English,
28 known as International Studies, which allows K-12 students to

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29 | simultaneously attend both the American and the French programs
30 | and obtain respective diplomas, and

31 | WHEREAS, the France Florida Foundation for the Arts is a
32 | nonprofit organization created to promote French art and culture
33 | in this state and to support cultural, educational, and artistic
34 | exchanges between France and Florida through exhibitions,
35 | performances, lectures, and other cultural events that reflect
36 | the quality of French artists and scholars today, thereby
37 | promoting knowledge of the French language, history, and culture
38 | among local students and citizens, and

39 | WHEREAS, an estimated 30,000 French citizens currently
40 | reside in this state, providing some 18,000 jobs and
41 | contributing significantly to the economic well-being of all
42 | Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

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44 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
45 | Florida:

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47 | That the House of Representatives celebrates Franco-
48 | Floridian relationships and recognizes Florida's rich French
49 | heritage.