

HCR 507

2017

## 1 House Concurrent Resolution

2 A concurrent resolution requesting the Joint Committee  
3 on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement  
4 of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby  
5 Smith in the National Statuary Hall with a statue of  
6 Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

7  
8 WHEREAS, in March 2016, the Florida Legislature passed, and  
9 the Governor signed into law, Senate Bill 310, authorizing the  
10 replacement of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby  
11 Smith in the National Statuary Hall with a prominent Florida  
12 citizen recommended by the ad hoc committee of the Great  
13 Floridians Program within the Division of Historical Resources  
14 of the Department of State, and

15 WHEREAS, one of the three prominent Florida citizens  
16 recommended by the ad hoc committee is Marjory Stoneman Douglas,  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, beginning in the 1920's, Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
19 invested years of her life researching what little scientific  
20 knowledge was recorded about the unique ecology and history of  
21 the Everglades, and

22 WHEREAS, instead of gifts and celebrations on her birthday,  
23 Douglas asked that trees be planted, resulting in over 100,000  
24 planted trees across the state, and

25           WHEREAS, in her book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*,  
26 published in 1947, Marjory Stoneman Douglas characterized the  
27 Everglades as a complex web of ecosystems surrounding a  
28 treasured river worthy of protecting, which redefined the  
29 popular conception that the Everglades were merely an  
30 insignificant swamp, and

31           WHEREAS, until her death in 1998, Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
32 was a fearless crusader who dedicated herself to the protection  
33 and restoration of the Everglades, and

34           WHEREAS, today, Everglades National Park is a World  
35 Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve, a Wetland of  
36 International Importance, and a specially protected area under  
37 the Cartagena Treaty and continues to draw millions of tourists  
38 to the state, and

39           WHEREAS, in 1980, the Tallahassee headquarters building for  
40 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was named  
41 after Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and

42           WHEREAS, in 1986, the National Parks Conservation  
43 Association established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award which  
44 honors individuals who go to great lengths to advocate for the  
45 protection of the National Park System, and

46           WHEREAS, in 1987, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was named a  
47 great Floridian by the ad hoc committee of the Great Floridians  
48 Program, and

49 WHEREAS, in 1991, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was honored with  
50 a visit from Queen Elizabeth II, and

51 WHEREAS, in 1993, former President Bill Clinton awarded  
52 Marjory Stoneman Douglas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the  
53 highest honor given to a civilian, calling her "a mentor for all  
54 of us who desire to preserve what we Southerners affectionately  
55 call a sense of place," and

56 WHEREAS, in 1999, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was inducted  
57 into the National Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame; and

58 WHEREAS, in 2000, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was inducted  
59 into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and

60 WHEREAS, in 2015, former President Barack Obama announced  
61 the designation of Marjory Stoneman Douglas' cottage located in  
62 Coconut Grove as a National Historic Landmark, and

63 WHEREAS, former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles explained  
64 the impact Marjory Stoneman Douglas had on the lives of  
65 Floridians by saying, "Marjory was not just a pioneer of the  
66 environmental movement, she was a prophet, calling out to us to  
67 save the environment for our children and our grandchildren,"  
68 and

69 WHEREAS, Marjory Stoneman Douglas is a renowned journalist  
70 and author of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Florida's most eminent  
71 environmentalist whose legendary works remain the definitive  
72 reference on the Florida Everglades, NOW, THEREFORE,  
73

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74 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
75 Florida, the Senate Concurring:

76

77 That the Legislature hereby respectfully requests the Joint  
78 Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement  
79 of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith in the  
80 National Statuary Hall with a statue of Marjory Stoneman  
81 Douglas.

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