

HR 8045

2025

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing October 20, 2025, as "Tom
3 Petty Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Tom Petty was born in Gainesville on October 20,
6 1950, and graduated from Gainesville High School in 1968, and

7 WHEREAS, a big fan of Elvis Presley and inspired by The
8 Beatles and The Rolling Stones, Tom Petty formed his first band,
9 Mudcrutch, in 1970, and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Petty's next band, the eponymous Tom Petty and
11 the Heartbreakers, went on to receive international acclaim, and

12 WHEREAS, between his work with the Heartbreakers and his
13 solo albums, Tom Petty sold more than 80 million records
14 worldwide, which included rock hits like "American Girl" (1976),
15 "Don't Do Me Like That" (1979), "Refugee" (1980), "Free Fallin'"
16 (1989), "I Won't Back Down" (1989), and "You Don't Know How It
17 Feels" (1994), and

18 WHEREAS, Tom Petty won three Grammy awards and was
19 nominated for a total of 18 throughout his career, received a
20 star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame with the Heartbreakers in
21 1999, received the Radio Music Awards Legend Award in 2003 and
22 the Billboard Music Awards Billboard Century Award in 2005, and
23 was honored as the 2017 MusiCares Person of the Year, and

24 WHEREAS, in 2002, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers were
 25 inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, making Tom Petty
 26 one of the few Floridians to earn the honor, and

27 WHEREAS, the Department of State Division of Arts and
 28 Culture inducted Tom Petty into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame
 29 in 2014, and

30 WHEREAS, in 2018, the City of Gainesville renamed Northeast
 31 Park to Tom Petty Park in honor of the hometown hero and local
 32 boy made good, and

33 WHEREAS, Tom Petty was awarded a posthumous honorary Doctor
 34 of Music from the University of Florida in 2023, and

35 WHEREAS, in 2023, Tom Petty's estate and the University of
 36 Florida partnered to create the Tom Petty Endowment for Guitars
 37 and Innovation to help fund the next generations of Florida
 38 musicians, NOW, THEREFORE,

39
 40 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 41 Florida:

42
 43 That October 20, 2025, is recognized as "Tom Petty Day" in
 44 Florida to honor the legacy and life of Tom Petty on what would
 45 have been his 75th birthday.