

HR 9047

2013

## House Resolution

A resolution designating April 2, 2013, as "Florida  
Discovery Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce  
de León discovered Florida in an attempt to find the island of  
Bimini, and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 1513, records made during the voyage  
and studied by the 16th-century Spanish historian Antonio de  
Herrera indicated that an "unknown island" was sighted by Ponce  
de León and his crew, which turned out to be the first-recorded  
sighting of the Florida coastline, and

WHEREAS, Juan Ponce de León is believed to have landed on  
the shore of present-day Florida between April 3 and April 8,  
1513, after his crew took a latitude reading at 30 degrees, 8  
minutes latitude, which is just north of present-day St.  
Augustine in Ponte Vedra Beach, and

WHEREAS, Ponce de León named the newly discovered land "La  
Florida" in recognition of the lush foliage on shore and the  
recent passing of the Spanish Easter celebration, Pascua Florida  
or the Festival of Flowers, and

WHEREAS, the year 2013 marks the 500-year anniversary of  
the first recorded sighting of and landing in Florida by Juan  
Ponce de León and his crew, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
Florida:

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29           That April 2, 2013, is recognized as "Florida Discovery  
30 Day" in the State of Florida in honor of the discovery of  
31 Florida in 1513 by Spanish explorer and adventurer Juan Ponce de  
32 León.