

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.