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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 14, 2024, as "Gator Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the nation's top public university, ranking first among all public institutions by the Wall Street Journal based on value, graduation rates, and the learning environment, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida conducted a record \$1.25 billion in research over the previous fiscal year, funding new healthcare discoveries, scientific exploration, agricultural studies, and technological advancements, and

WHEREAS, UF Health Shands has nine medical specialties ranked in the top 50 nationwide, including five adult and four children's specialties, with dedicated doctors, researchers, and healthcare workers caring for patients from across the state and nation, and

WHEREAS, the UF College of Veterinary Medicine has launched the first open-heart surgery program in the nation qualified to treat dogs requiring a mitral valve repair, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to play a significant role in the funding and accessibility of Artificial Intelligence (AI), offering all students the Fundamentals of AI course, access to an AI pathways career coach, and supporting K-12 AI education programs to accredit students and faculty with

26 | the newest technology and research, and

27 | WHEREAS, the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences
 28 | (UF/IFAS) conducted a record-breaking \$300 million in research
 29 | expenditures in fiscal year 2023, representing an 8 percent
 30 | increase from the previous year and a historical amount towards
 31 | Florida's agricultural and natural resources research and
 32 | advancement, and

33 | WHEREAS, the UF Office of the President, under the
 34 | leadership of President Ben Sasse, announced in fall 2023
 35 | numerous strategic funding projects totaling over \$29 million
 36 | for 36 innovative research projects designed to advance the
 37 | student experience and interdisciplinary scholarship university
 38 | wide, with additional projects in the planning stages, and

39 | WHEREAS, the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for
 40 | Biomedical Innovation and Technology has yielded more than \$3.2
 41 | billion in economic impact within its first 20 years of
 42 | operation and continues to make advancements that benefit human
 43 | health and improve technology, and

44 | WHEREAS, the UF Health Cancer Center was recently
 45 | designated as a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer
 46 | Center due to its distinctive training programs, community
 47 | outreach, and cutting-edge research and was awarded additional
 48 | funding to further enhance care and attract world-class
 49 | clinicians and researchers, and

50 | WHEREAS, the UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

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51 established the Florida Semiconductor Institute to support the
52 creation and development of microchips to bring manufacturing
53 back to the United States and advance research and technology to
54 sustain the semiconductor industry, and

55 WHEREAS, the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
56 has more staff with USDA teaching awards than any other land-
57 grant institution due to their passion and success beyond the
58 classroom for their students, and

59 WHEREAS, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital recently
60 earned a prestigious designation as a Level 1 pediatric trauma
61 center for fulfilling the American College of Surgeons'
62 standards of staff, resources, and equipment that enhance the
63 hospital's ability to handle children facing complex, life-
64 threatening emergencies, joining numerous other UF Health Shands
65 specialties in their rankings, and

66 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a participating
67 Yellow Ribbon school that provides supportive academic and
68 financial resources for veteran students through the Office of
69 Student Veteran Success and the UF Collegiate Veterans Success
70 Center, and is dedicated to giving back to those who have
71 served, and

72 WHEREAS, UF Health recently concluded the improvement and
73 expansion of facilities within the Proton Therapy Institute to
74 increase the number of rooms and personal treatment options for
75 cancer patients, completing the seven-year, \$44 million

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76 expansion project that will draw patients and researchers from
77 across the state and nation to help find a cure, NOW, THEREFORE,
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79 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
80 Florida:

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82 That the University of Florida is commended and
83 congratulated for its dedication to the advancement of the State
84 of Florida, and that February 14, 2024, is recognized as "Gator
85 Day" in Florida.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
87 presented to University of Florida President Dr. Ben Sasse as a
88 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.