

HR 8077

2020

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing August 1, 2020, as "Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 1945, Virginia Beach, as it was then known, was designated "a Dade County Park for the exclusive use of Negroes," becoming a cherished getaway and a social gathering place for African Americans, with its shaded picnic areas with barbecue pits and its cottages and amusement rides, and

WHEREAS, even after the park was closed by the City of Miami in 1982 due to the high cost of maintenance and operations, the civic, social, and environmental characteristics of the park continued to hold national, state, regional, and local significance in the history of civil rights and to highlight the achievements of local African-American communities, and

WHEREAS, in August 2002, the park was added to the National Register of Historic Places; in 2006, it was added to the State of Florida Heritage Trail; and in February 2008, it reopened to the public as the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park was included as a major stakeholder in the Virginia Key Master Plan, which had been approved by the City of Miami City Commission in 2006, a turning point in the life of the park, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Key Master Plan envisioned the

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26 restoration of the park and the creation of a museum that will
27 present the history and contributions of those who, in the
28 1940s, pressed for designation of the park; who sought to
29 restore the natural environment of the park; and support the
30 creation of a center for civic engagement, social justice and
31 positive change, conflict resolution and reconciliation, and
32 progressive corrective action, and

33 WHEREAS, the goals of the Virginia Key Master Plan are to
34 enhance the cultural offerings of the City of Miami; bring
35 international attention to this state and to the park's
36 noteworthy civil rights history; serve as a positive example of
37 civic engagement, as represented by the history of the park's
38 origin and the advocacy of a citizen-based Board of Trustees;
39 and create social engagement opportunities through the
40 incorporation of the public shoreline, a greenspace, and various
41 amenities, and

42 WHEREAS, in 2013, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park was
43 added to the City of Miami's Historic and Environmental
44 Preservation List, and

45 WHEREAS, August 1, 2020, marks the 75th anniversary of the
46 establishment of the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, NOW,
47 THEREFORE,

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

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That August 1, 2020, is recognized as "Historic Virginia
Key Beach Park Day" in Florida.