

HR 9099

2012

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing May 1, 2012, as "French Day
3 in Honor of Jean Ribault" in Florida in honor of 450
4 years of French presence in Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, on April 30, 1562, under the command of Jean
7 Ribault, the first French sailing expedition dropped anchor
8 along the North Coast of Florida at the mouth of a river that he
9 later named River May and that has since been renamed the St.
10 Johns River, and

11 WHEREAS, on May 1, 1562, upon setting foot on the banks of
12 the St. Johns River and upon offering a prayer of thanksgiving
13 for their safe arrival, Ribault developed friendships with the
14 Mocama-speaking natives, and

15 WHEREAS, on May 2, 1562, Ribault and his men erected a
16 column in honor of their King, Charles IX, thereby claiming the
17 land for France, and

18 WHEREAS, La Caroline, the first French settlement in the
19 present-day United States, was established for the purpose of
20 individual and religious freedom in what is now Jacksonville on
21 June 22, 1564, under the leadership of René Goulaine de
22 Laudonnière, as a result of a second French sailing expedition,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, France has established a long-lasting relationship
25 with Florida through its trade, cultural, and education
26 organizations, and

27 WHEREAS, twenty Floridian and French cities and counties
28 have signed agreements to promote cultural and commercial ties

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29 | and more than 50 partnerships between Floridian and French
30 | universities are currently in place, and

31 | WHEREAS, this concord between France and Florida is also
32 | evidenced by 30,000 French nationals permanently residing in
33 | Florida, more than 300,000 French visiting the state every year,
34 | and numerous French enterprises conducting business in the
35 | state, NOW, THEREFORE,

36 |

37 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 | Florida:

39 |

40 | That May 1, 2012, is designated as "French Day in Honor of
41 | Jean Ribault" in the State of Florida in honor of 450 years of
42 | historical bonds and friendship between the people of France and
43 | the people of Florida.