



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FIRST ANNUAL VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is home to a large number of individuals who have themselves escaped from or whose recent ancestors fled countries controlled by Communist regimes, including many Cubans, Venezuelans and Nicaraguans; and

WHEREAS, in the century since the first Communist government was formed by the Bolsheviks when the Russian Empire became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Soviet Union and the Communist governments that it propagated around the world have killed more than 100 million people and condemned millions more to brutal repression and subjugation; and

WHEREAS, Marxism, socialism, and communism are three terms for the same ideology, an ideology which is incompatible with the principles of liberty, prosperity, and the dignity of each individual human life which form the bedrock of our nation's republican government, its free enterprise economy, and its vibrant religious traditions and civil society; and

WHEREAS, at a time when communism is actively promoted by prominent politicians, college professors, and pop-culture figures in our own country, it is more important than ever to teach Florida's schoolchildren about the horrific history of Communist countries and to provide them with opportunities to hear from individuals who suffered under the rule of Communist dictators; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis signed into law HB 395 which establishes November 7 as Victims of Communism Day and requires high school students in United States Government classes to receive instruction on that day on "topics such as Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and Nicolás Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how victims suffered under these regimes through poverty, starvation, migration, systemic lethal violence, and suppression of speech"; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis launched an initiative to record video testimonials of Floridians who suffered under these regimes and encourages all Floridians to watch these harrowing accounts of life under this evil ideology; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has recognized and honored individuals who fought against communism and repression, including Felix Rodriguez, renowned freedom fighter during the Bay of Pigs invasion; and

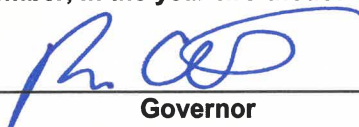
WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis committed \$25 million to the Freedom Tower and \$2.6 million to the Bay of Pigs Museum in the 2022-23 budget to ensure Floridians can experience the state's history of combatting communism and helping those who fled communist regimes; and

WHEREAS, Victims of Communism Day is an opportunity for students of all ages and Floridians of all backgrounds to learn about the dangers posed by socialism around the world and here at home, as well as to reflect upon the blessings of liberty afforded to ourselves and our posterity as a result of the American traditions of limited government and individual freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby declare November 7, 2022, the first annual *Victims of Communism Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 7th day of November, in the year two thousand twenty-two.


Governor