

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1069

TITLE: Resolution Memorializing the Three-Year Anniversary of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting

AUTHORS: LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Leader Kristen Jackson, Senator Jackson Glover

SPONSORS: LGBTQ+ Caucus Co-Leader Austin Freedman, Minority Party Leader Ashley Grabowski, Senator Nick Meyer, Senator Jon Gant, Latinx Caucus Leader Mauricio Perez, Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Anthony Portugues, Senator Alana Rush, Senator Alfredo Ortiz, Senator Zachary Amrose, Mackintosh Joachim, Colin Solomon, Senator Rebecca Ragan, Coalition Leader Macey Wilson, Joe Andreoli, Jessica Martinez, Pride Student Union

WHEREAS, on June 12th, 2016, the second largest single-day mass shooting in the history of the United States occurred at Pulse, an Orlando nightclub [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the lives of 49 LGBTQ+ members and allies were lost to gun violence and an additional 53 were injured in an act of hate and terror; and,

WHEREAS, the victims were Stanley Almodovar III (23), Amanda Alvear (25), Oscar A. Aracena-Montero (26), Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala (33), Alejandro Barrios Martinez (21), Martin Benitez Torres (33), Antonio D. Brown (30), Darryl R. Burt II (29), Jonathan A. Camuy Vega (24), Angel L. Candelario-Padro (28), Simon A. Carrillo Fernandez (31), Juan Chevez-Martinez (25), Luis D. Conde (39), Cory J. Connell (21), Tevin E. Crosby (25), Franky J. Dejesus Velazquez (50), Deonka D. Drayton (32), Mercedes M. Flores (26), Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz (22), Juan R. Guerrero (22), Paul T. Henry (41), Frank Hernandez (27), Miguel A. Honorato (30), Javier Jorge-Reyes (40), Jason B. Josaphat (19), Eddie J. Justice (30), Anthony L. Laureano Disla (25), Christopher A. Leinonen (32), Brenda L. Marquez McCool (49), Jean C. Mendez Perez (35), Akyra Monet Murray (18), Kimberly Morris (37), Jean C. Nieves Rodriguez (27), Luis O. Ocasio-Capo (20), Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez (25), Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera (36), Joel Rayon Paniagua (32), Enrique L. Rios Jr. (25), Juan P. Rivera Velazquez (37), Yilmery Rodriguez Solivan (24), Christopher J. Sanfeliz (24), Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado (35), Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez (25), Edward Sotomayor Jr. (34), Shane E. Tomlinson (33), Leroy Valentin Fernandez (25), Luis S. Vielma (22), Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon (37), and Jerald A. Wright (31) [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Pulse, a known LGBTQ+ nightclub, was “a place of love and acceptance for the LGBTQ community”, and is now the site for the largest targeted violence against these two communities in history [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the shooting occurred on “Latin Night” and was frequented by people of Puerto Rican, Colombian, Venezuelan, Dominican, and Cuban descent and 90% of the victims were Hispanic [4][6]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is home to a plethora of LGBTQ+ identifying individuals, members of the Latinx community, residents of Orlando, Florida and people who may be an intersection of these communities; and,

WHEREAS, Barbara Poma, the owner of Pulse Nightclub plans to reopen and stated, “By reopening it, same name, the same format that we had, it just proves, you know, that hate will not win [5];” then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate memorializes the 49 people whose lives were lost in the Pulse Nightclub Shooting three years ago on June 12, 2016; may they rest in power.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate affirms Barbara Poma’s words and actively works to be inclusive and resilient when necessary.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate firmly supports both the LGBTQ+ and Latinx communities and the efforts being made to improve their lives on campus and statewide.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate continues to stand with Gators around the nation, families of the victims and intends to honor the victims with action.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Nancy Chrystal-Green, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Senior Director Will Atkins, LGBTQ Affairs Graduate Assistant Logan Nesor, and LGBTQ Affairs Director Brandon Birsic.

[1] <https://www.cnn.com/2013/09/16/us/20-deadliest-mass-shootings-in-u-s-history-fast-facts/index.html>

[2] <http://www.cityoforlando.net/blog/victims/>

[3] <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/06/12/pulse-more-than-just-another-gay-club/85785762/>

[4] <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/14/latino-hispanic-orlando-shooting-victims>

[5] <https://nypost.com/2017/08/31/pulse-nightclub-reopening-at-different-location/>

[6] https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/puerto-rico-pulse-orlando-shooting-funerals-1.3644561?fbclid=IwAR2zJSBV3HoL27m7kTTiVUTPfD44B_dYNnxnz4B8GOgmu0s9PNuGjiQyJsw