

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1045**

**TITLE: Resolution demanding the University restore the fountain at Liberty Pond**

**AUTHOR(S): Student Body President Cooper Brown, Senate President Pro Tempore Noah Fineberg, Senator Andrew Priest, Veterans Affairs Director Connor McClay**

**SPONSOR(S): Senate President Annabelle Groux, Senator Ryan Marcus, Senator Sean Harkins, Senator Ryan McKeever, Senator Mason Solomon, Senator Paul Camardo, Member-at-Large Joseph Kwan, Senator Ryan McKeever, Judiciary Chairwoman Casey Mason, Majority Party Leader John Brinkman**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Veterans Memorial was originally constructed in April 2009<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Collegiate Veterans Society proposed the Veterans Memorial to honor UF alumni and others who have served and protected the nation and its freedoms<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Student Government provided some funding for the project and the remainder of the \$80,000 project was raised from generous alumni and supporters; and,

**WHEREAS**, the memorial consisted of a fountain, The US and State of Florida flags, a commemorative marker and five granite pillars representing each of the five military branches; and,

**WHEREAS**, the pond was not optimally constructed, fell into disrepair, and is currently green and riddled with algae; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) Committee initially authorized \$400,000 for the Reitz Union South Terrace Renovation Project in FY19 to enhance the space surrounding the Veterans Memorial; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CITF Committee authorized an additional \$79,608 in FY20 and \$320,000 in FY21 to ensure the Reitz Union South Terrace Renovation Project scope included a new fountain and an enhanced Veterans Memorial; and,

**WHEREAS**, Walker Architects, who was contracted to provide design services for the Reitz Union South Terrace Renovation Project, drafted designs for an enhanced Veterans Memorial as part of the renovation project; and,

**WHEREAS**, the renovated Reitz Union South Terrace space removed the original Veterans Memorial without building the enhanced Veterans Memorial; and,

**WHEREAS**, Student Senate Bill 2021-1000<sup>3</sup> gave the Student Senate's support for establishing another stone to recognize the Space Force; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has over 2,000 veterans, active-duty members, and dependents currently enrolled at the University; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and wishes

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<sup>1</sup> [UF Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony to be held April 30 - News - University of Florida](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Senate OKs on-campus memorial to veterans](#)

<sup>3</sup> [STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1000](#)

to honor the long history and tradition of Gators serving our nation in uniform.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate demands the commemorative stones be replaced and that a new stone honoring the Space Force is constructed.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate demands that the University restore the fountain at Liberty Pond.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Ron DeSantis,, Chairman of the UF Board of Trustees Morteza "Mori" Hossein University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane, Vice President for Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull, Assistant Vice President Nancy Chrystal-Green, Reitz Union Associate Director Jessica Inman, Vice President for Government and Community Relations Mark Kaplan, Representative Kat Cammack, Florida Senate President Wilton Simpson, State Senator Keith Perry, Florida Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls, State Representative Chuck Clemons, State Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson, UF Collegiate Veterans Society President Savanna Turner*