House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the Woodville Karst Plain Project for its outstanding contributions to the State of Florida through scientific research and its dedication and tireless efforts to promote the protection of the state's precious natural water resources.

WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project team was developed and granted official project status by the National Speleological Society in 1990 to conduct exploratory dives, research, and mapping within the Wakulla-Leon Sinks Cave Systems located in North Florida south of Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, the Wakulla-Leon Sinks Cave System ranks number one in the United States for longest underwater cave system, fourth in the world for longest underwater cave system, and sixty-fourth in the world for longest cave system wet or dry, and

WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project is a nonprofit affiliate of Global Underwater Explorers and comprised of nearly 75 volunteers who have dedicated over 20 years of service and resources to research, and

WHEREAS, the Woodville Karst Plain Project divers hold multiple world records in underwater cave diving, and

WHEREAS, diving methods developed by the team members of the Woodville Karst Plain Project have influenced scientific and military diving protocols, and
WHEREAS, data gathered by the Woodville Karst Plain Project has provided governmental agencies with a better understanding of the underground aquifer system, surface water runoff, and other nonpoint source pollution issues, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the mapping done by the Woodville Karst Plain Project, the State of Florida and the United States Department of Agriculture established a greenway surrounding the Leon Sinks Cave System and a protection zone for Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, as well as numerous improvements in water management district operations and development planning, and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Woodville Karst Plain Project divers Casey McKinlay and Jarrod Jablonski discovered the connection between the Leon and Wakulla Sinks Cave Systems after nearly 20 years of exploration and continue to push the mapping efforts southward to the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, in March 2009, the Florida Cabinet recognized the efforts of the Woodville Karst Plain Project and its 20 years of volunteer service to the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Woodville Karst Plain Project team is recognized for its outstanding contributions to the State of Florida through scientific research and its dedication and tireless efforts to promote the protection of the state's precious natural water resources.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Casey McKinlay, Woodville Karst Plain Project Director, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.