

PROFESA

PROFESARESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO

WHEREAS, in 1898 Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States as a result of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Spanish-American War, and

WHEREAS, in 1917 the Jones Act extended United States citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico but did not provide them with voting representation in the U.S. Congress nor give them the right to vote for the President of the United States, in fact tossing Puerto Ricans a second-class citizenship; and

WHEREAS, since 1917 over 200,000 U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico have valiantly served in every conflict since World War I, four earned the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor and several hundred the Silver and Bronze Star Medals; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,000 have sacrificed their lives for this nation and the 'justice for all' they themselves did not enjoy, and the U.S. National Cemetery in Puerto Rico has 36,375 records of patriots; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the many social, economic and political contributions the 3.8 million U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico make to conserve and enhance this nation's democratic values, in spite almost half of the Island's population migrating into the United States (3.4 million); and

WHEREAS, since 1898, the people of Puerto Rico have been subject to the plenary power of Congress under the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution denying both the equal representation they would have as a state of the Union, and the full sovereignty they would have as an independent nation or a freely associated state; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the Legislature of Puerto Rico formally petitioned the U.S. Congress government to respond to the democratic aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico by means of a federally-sanctioned plebiscite to be held no later than 1998; and

WHEREAS, 1998, the one-hundredth year anniversary of the arrival of U.S. troops on the coasts of Puerto Rico, passed without congressional legislation in response to the Puerto Rico Legislature's petition; and

WHEREAS, as we start a new millennium, we recognize that the time is long overdue for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico to have the opportunity to choose a permanent and fully de-colonized status, NOW,
THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUERTO RICAN PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA (PROFESA):

THAT PROFESA petitions the United States Congress pass, and the President sign into law, legislation establishing a self-determination process with clearly defined, non-colonial status options, that authorizes granting the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico a basic and well-earned democratic right to make an informed decision to resolve the Island's political limbo and their uncertain future.



RAUL DUANY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS