

# CHAPTER 97-316

## Senate Bill No. 664

An act relating to building designations; designating the first building constructed on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University as the “Ben Hill Griffin III Building”; directing the Board of Regents of the Division of Universities of the Department of Education to erect suitable markers; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Ben Hill Griffin III and his family, distinguished members of the business community and philanthropists, are longtime supporters of education in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Ben Hill Griffin III and his family have contributed many millions of dollars to the university system in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Ben Hill Griffin III, the Chairman of the Alico, Inc., Board of Directors, members of the board, and their stockholders have dedicated themselves to supporting higher education and to continued support of the State of Florida, particularly Southwest Florida, and

WHEREAS, Alico, through Ben Hill Griffin III, with the full support of its Board of Directors, contributed a 760-acre site to the Florida Board of Regents to establish the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University, the 10th member of the State University System of Florida, located in Southwest Florida, and

WHEREAS, through Mr. Griffin's leadership, Alico's contributions to Florida Gulf Coast University to date include not only the site location but also a separate gift of 215 acres, \$1.2 million to fund academic chairs, \$2.4 million for road construction, \$200,000 for design assistance, and cooperative planning for a ½-mile buffer around the university site, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that loyal and distinguished friends and supporters of Florida Gulf Coast University be recognized for their contribution to Florida's newest university, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Ben Hill Griffin III Building designated; erection of suitable markers.—

(1) The first building constructed on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University is hereby designated as the “Ben Hill Griffin III Building.”

(2) The Board of Regents of the Division of Universities of the Department of Education shall erect suitable markers designating the “Ben Hill Griffin III Building” as described in subsection (1).

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 1997.