

By Senator Clary

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Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution recognizing March 6, 2002, as  
"Northwest Florida Legislative Day" in  
Tallahassee.

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida encompasses 16 counties  
across the Florida Panhandle and over 13,000 square miles of  
beautiful coastline, winding rivers, vast tracts of forested  
land, and more than 100 freshwater springs and is the home to  
36 state parks, and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is known for its southern  
charm and small-town atmosphere, blended with its largely  
undiscovered and unspoiled beaches, and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast was voted the Number One  
Beach of America by USA Today and was voted as Southern  
Living's best beach of the South for 6 years and Southern  
Living's top family destination, and

WHEREAS, the beaches of Northwest Florida are visited  
by over 20 million tourists annually and average 339 sunny  
days per year, and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast beaches are unique and  
distinct due to the snow-white sand that is composed of quartz  
crystals washed down from the Appalachian Mountains centuries  
ago and to its waters that appear emerald green due to light  
reflecting off the photo-synthetic micro-algae that are  
suspended in the crystal clear water, and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is home to eight military  
bases, including Eglin Air Force Base, which is the largest  
air base in the Department of Defense; Pensacola Naval Air  
Station, home of the Blue Angels; Hurlburt Field, which is the  
oldest, largest, and most seasoned unit in the Air Force

1 Special Operations Command; Whiting Field; Tyndall Air Force  
2 Base; Duke Field; Coastal Systems Station; the United States  
3 Coast Guard; and the world renowned National Museum of Naval  
4 Aviation, and

5 WHEREAS, today at noon we were honored to have a  
6 flyover by aircraft from Eglin Air Force Base which are  
7 assigned to the 33rd Fighter Wing's 60th Fighter Squadron and  
8 fully armed and ready to defend us in Operation Noble Eagle,  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force  
11 Base has supported America's effort to combat terrorism by  
12 developing precision-guided weapons that have played a major  
13 role in the efforts in Afghanistan and more than 60 percent of  
14 the bombs dropped in Afghanistan were precision-guided  
15 weapons, most of them developed at Eglin Air Force Base, and

16 WHEREAS, Eglin Air Force Base has sent more than 1,000  
17 military members to support Operation Enduring Freedom and  
18 Operation Noble Eagle to bases throughout the world, and  
19 Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing and its 728th Air Control Squadron  
20 have supported homeland defense by keeping watch on our cities  
21 and the skies over the United States, and

22 WHEREAS, Duke Field's 919th Special Operations Wing has  
23 deployed more than 500 people and its aircraft to support  
24 special operations missions worldwide and more than 85 percent  
25 of its 1,300 members live and work in the Florida Panhandle,  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the Island of Saint Rose, now known as Santa  
28 Rosa Island, was the site of the first colonial settlement in  
29 North America in 1559, and

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1           WHEREAS, in 1861, the Battle of Santa Rosa Island was  
2 fought when the Confederacy tried and failed to overtake Fort  
3 Pickens, held by the Union throughout the Civil War, and

4           WHEREAS, Pensacola Beach had the area's first tourist  
5 attraction when Pensacola boosters lobbied in 1886 to have  
6 Geronimo imprisoned at Fort Pickens, and

7           WHEREAS, Milton is considered by the Florida  
8 Legislature to be Florida's Canoe Capitol of Florida, and  
9 Navarre is known as the "best kept secret", and

10           WHEREAS, Pensacola is known as the city of five flags  
11 due to the city's being occupied by the Spanish, French,  
12 British, Confederacy, and the United States at some point in  
13 its history, and its historic district is a national historic  
14 landmark and was voted as the seventh most polite city in the  
15 nation, and

16           WHEREAS, Ft. Walton Beach is known for its Indian  
17 Temple Mound Museum which was a political and cultural center  
18 for Native Americans approximately 800 years ago and as a  
19 national historic landmark, it holds the finest collection of  
20 prehistoric Native American ceramics in the United States, and

21           WHEREAS, Ft. Walton Beach is the Billfish Capital of  
22 the World and has the annual Billy Bowlegs Festival, and

23           WHEREAS, Destin is the home of the largest  
24 charter-boat-fishing fleet in Florida and in the entire Gulf  
25 of Mexico, and

26           WHEREAS, Destin Harbor was the setting for a very  
27 successful movie, Jaws, and the Seaside community was the  
28 setting for "The Truman Show," starring Jim Carrey, and

29           WHEREAS, Sopchoppy is the earthworm capital of Florida,  
30 and Port St. Joe is the sight of Florida's First  
31 Constitutional Convention, and

1           WHEREAS, Panama City Beach is the self-styled seafood  
2 capital of the world, the home of Florida's longest pier, and  
3 is known as the Wreck Capital of the South for its artificial  
4 dive sights, and

5           WHEREAS, Franklin County has no major highways or stop  
6 lights but is a "cool" place to visit due to the fact that it  
7 is the home of Dr. John Gorrie who invented a machine that is  
8 the predecessor to refrigeration and air conditioning and  
9 Apalachicola Bay produces 90 percent of the state's annual  
10 oyster harvest, and

11           WHEREAS, Tallahassee is the capital city of Florida and  
12 the home of the Florida Legislature in which Northwest Florida  
13 is represented by Senators Durell Peaden, Al Lawson, Richard  
14 Mitchell, and Charlie Clary, and Representatives Greg Evers,  
15 Jerry Maygarden, Holly Benson, Jerry Melvin, Don Brown, Allan  
16 Bense, Bev Kilmer, Curtis Richardson, Lorraine Ausley, and Will  
17 Kendrick, and

18           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is the home of 11  
19 universities and community colleges, including the University  
20 of West Florida, Florida State University-Panama City Campus,  
21 Florida State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
22 University, Troy State University-Ft. Walton Beach Campus,  
23 Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola Christian College, Gulf  
24 Coast Community College, Okaloosa Walton Community College,  
25 Chipola Community College, and Tallahassee Community College,  
26 and

27           WHEREAS, Madison Oakes is a student at Van R. Butler  
28 Elementary in Walton County and the winner of the Northwest  
29 Florida Legislative Day poster art contest, and

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1           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida offers exciting events from  
2 wine festivals to seafood extravaganzas to ethnic-heritage  
3 happenings, NOW, THEREFORE,

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5 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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7           That the Florida Senate recognizes March 6, 2002, as  
8 "Northwest Florida Legislative Day" in Tallahassee.

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