

By Senator Clary

4-377-03

1                                   Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_  
2           A resolution recognizing April 23, 2003, as  
3           "Northwest Florida Legislative Day" in  
4           Tallahassee.  
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6           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida encompasses 16 counties  
7 across the Florida Panhandle and over 13,000 square miles of  
8 beautiful coastline, winding rivers, vast tracts of forested  
9 land, and more than 100 freshwater springs and is the home to  
10 36 state parks, and  
11           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is known for its southern  
12 charm and small-town atmosphere, blended with its largely  
13 undiscovered and unspoiled beaches, and  
14           WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast was voted the Number One  
15 Beach of America by USA Today and was voted as Southern  
16 Living's best beach of the South for 6 years and Southern  
17 Living's top family destination, and  
18           WHEREAS, the beaches of Northwest Florida are visited  
19 by over 20 million tourists annually and average 339 sunny  
20 days per year, and  
21           WHEREAS, the Emerald Coast beaches are uniquely  
22 beautiful given their snow-white sand, composed of quartz  
23 crystals washed down from the Appalachian Mountains centuries  
24 ago, and their emerald-green waters, colored by light  
25 reflecting off photo-synthetic micro-algae suspended in the  
26 northern Gulf Coast's crystal clear water, and  
27           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is home to eight military  
28 bases, including Eglin Air Force Base, the largest air base in  
29 the Department of Defense; Pensacola Naval Air Station, home  
30 of the Blue Angels; Hurlburt Field, the oldest, largest, and  
31 most seasoned unit in the Air Force Special Operations

1 Command; Whiting Field; Tyndall Air Force Base; Duke Field;  
2 Coastal Systems Station; the United States Coast Guard; and  
3 the world-renowned National Museum of Naval Aviation, and  
4 WHEREAS, the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force  
5 Base supports America's efforts at combatting terrorism by  
6 developing precision-guided weapons, many of which have played  
7 a major role in recent military maneuvers in Afghanistan, and  
8 WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of the bombs dropped in  
9 Afghanistan were precision-guided weapons, most of which were  
10 developed at Eglin Air Force Base, and  
11 WHEREAS, Eglin Air Force Base has deployed more than  
12 1,000 military personnel to support Operation Enduring Freedom  
13 and Operation Noble Eagle to bases throughout the world, and  
14 WHEREAS, Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing and 728th Air  
15 Control Squadron support homeland defense by keeping watch on  
16 our cities and the skies over the United States, and  
17 WHEREAS, Duke Field's 919th Special Operations Wing has  
18 deployed aircraft and more than 500 military personnel to  
19 support special operations missions worldwide, and more than  
20 85 percent of its 1,300 members live and work in the Florida  
21 Panhandle, and  
22 WHEREAS, in 1559, the Island of Saint Rose, now known  
23 as Santa Rosa Island, was the site of the first colonial  
24 settlement in North America, and  
25 WHEREAS, in 1861, the Battle of Santa Rosa Island was  
26 fought when the Confederacy tried and failed to overtake Fort  
27 Pickens, held by the Union throughout the Civil War, and  
28 WHEREAS, Pensacola Beach had the area's first tourist  
29 attraction when Pensacola boosters lobbied in 1886 to have  
30 Geronimo imprisoned at Fort Pickens, and  
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1           WHEREAS, Milton is considered by the Florida  
2 Legislature to be Florida's Canoe Capitol of Florida, and  
3 Navarre is known as the "best kept secret," and

4           WHEREAS, Pensacola is known as the City of Five Flags  
5 because of the city's occupation by the Spanish, the French,  
6 the British, the Confederacy, and the United States at various  
7 points in its history, and

8           WHEREAS, Pensacola was voted as the seventh most polite  
9 city in the nation and its historic district is a national  
10 historic landmark, and

11           WHEREAS, Ft. Walton Beach is known for its Indian  
12 Temple Mound Museum, a political and cultural center for  
13 Native Americans approximately 800 years ago, and, is a  
14 national historic landmark, holding the finest collection of  
15 prehistoric Native American ceramics in the United States, and

16           WHEREAS, Ft. Walton Beach is the Billfish Capital of  
17 the World and annually holds the Billy Bowlegs Festival, and

18           WHEREAS, Destin is the home of the largest  
19 charter-boat-fishing fleet in Florida and the entire Gulf of  
20 Mexico, and

21           WHEREAS, Destin Harbor was the setting for the movie,  
22 "Jaws II," and the Seaside community was the setting for the  
23 movie "The Truman Show," starring Jim Carrey, and

24           WHEREAS, Apalachicola, Carrabelle, and Wewahitchka  
25 provided settings for filming the movie, "Yulee's Gold,"  
26 starring Peter Fonda and depicting the extraordinary quality  
27 of tupelo honey produced in the region, and

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

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1           WHEREAS, Bay County is recognized as the third most  
2 popular golfing destination in the nation, and

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

7           WHEREAS, Franklin County is a "cool" place to visit  
8 because it is the home of Dr. John Gorrie who invented a  
9 machine that is the predecessor to refrigeration and air  
10 conditioning, and Apalachicola Bay produces 90 percent of the  
11 state's annual oyster harvest, and

12           WHEREAS, Tallahassee is the capital city of Florida and  
13 the home of the Florida Legislature, in which Northwest  
14 Florida is represented by Senators Durrell Peaden, Al Lawson,  
15 Nancy Argenziano, and Charlie Clary, and by Representatives  
16 Greg Evers, Dave Murzin, Holly Benson, Ray Sansom, Don Brown,  
17 Allan Bense, Bev Kilmer, Curtis Richardson, Loranne Ausley,  
18 and Will Kendrick, and

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

28           WHEREAS, Northwest Florida offers exciting events from  
29 wine festivals, to seafood extravaganzas to ethnic-heritage  
30 celebrations, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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1 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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3 That the Florida Senate recognizes April 23, 2003, as  
4 "Northwest Florida Legislative Day" in Tallahassee.

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