

By Senator King

8-631-05

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

A resolution recognizing March 15, 2005, as  
"St. Johns County Day" in Tallahassee.

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1565, Don Pedro Menendez de  
Aviles founded St. Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied  
European settlement in the United States, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is the site for Fort Mose,  
established by Spaniards and former African slaves in 1738,  
the first free black fort and settlement in North America, and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1821, St. Johns County, named for  
the St. Johns River, became one of Florida's first two  
counties by ordinance proclaimed by Major General Andrew  
Jackson, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County encompasses 609 square miles,  
from the many miles of beautiful beaches to the scenic Bartram  
Trail Highway that runs along the St. Johns River, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is a popular tourist  
destination, hosting more than 2 million visitors each year to  
the historic City of St. Augustine, to St. Augustine Beach,  
and to other communities throughout the county, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is one of the nation's most  
recognized golf destinations and is home to the World Golf  
Hall of Fame and to THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP, which is an  
internationally recognized golf event, and is also the  
national headquarters for the PGA Tour, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is also home to the  
Association of Tennis Players Tour, headquartered in Ponte  
Vedra Beach, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a critical component of the  
economy of St. Johns County, with its 149 farms on 49,631

1 agricultural acres comprising more than 12.7 percent of all  
2 the lands in the county and producing more than \$46 million in  
3 revenue annually, and

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes St. Johns County  
5 for its rich history and cultural diversity, NOW, THEREFORE,

6  
7 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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9 That March 15, 2005, be recognized as "St. Johns County  
10 Day" in Tallahassee.

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