

By Senator Joyner

18-02672-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 2008 as "Black History Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, our nation has celebrated Black History during the month of February since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, and the theme for this year's celebration is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," and

WHEREAS, long ago, approximately 12 million African American men, women, and children were forced to enter ships for lives of slavery in the Western Hemisphere, 10 million of whom survived the Middle Passage to arrive in America, and

WHEREAS, the Civil War erupted because the ideals upon which this country was founded are in direct conflict with slavery, resulting in the ratification of the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery in the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century began in an effort to correct the failures of Reconstruction and erase the remnants of slavery still evident in Jim Crow laws, in continued segregation in nearly every aspect of daily life, and in the persistence of second-class citizenship for African Americans, and

WHEREAS, as a testament of strength throughout these struggles, African Americans such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Carter G. Woodson, Malcolm X., Thurgood Marshall, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, and Barbara Jordan have contributed to the political and social growth of American society, and

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30 WHEREAS, through the contributions of African American
31 musicians and writers, such as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke
32 Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy
33 Gillespie, Leontyne Price, Marian Anderson, Andre Watts, Phyllis
34 Wheatley, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Alex
35 Haley, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Toni
36 Morrison, the culture of the United States of America has been
37 vitally enriched, and

38 WHEREAS, African American sports figures, such as Jesse
39 Owens, Arthur Ashe, Muhammad Ali, Robert "Bullet Bob" Hayes, a
40 Florida native who still is the only athlete to earn both an
41 Olympic Gold Medal and an NFL Super Bowl Ring, Tiger Woods, Venus
42 Williams, and Serena Williams, have demonstrated their ability to
43 be role models on and off the field and in and out of the ring as
44 they stood up for their rights and beliefs, and

45 WHEREAS, the fields of medicine, science, and technology
46 have all been advanced by the contributions of such African
47 American men and women as Dr. Charles Drew, Dr. Daniel Hale
48 Williams, Garrett Morgan, George Washington Carver, Dr. Mae C.
49 Jemison, and Dr. Benjamin Carson, and

50 WHEREAS, African Americans who are native to Florida, such
51 as Zora Neale Hurston, Charles Kenzie Steele, Sr., Jesse K.
52 McCrary, Jr., Joseph E. Lee, Asa Philip Randolph, and Mary McLeod
53 Bethune, have proudly represented our state as they contributed
54 to the history and culture of the United States of America, and

55 WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the many achievements
56 of African Americans in an effort to offer each American a
57 broader perspective of our history and an appreciation for the
58 diversity that makes this country strong, and

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59 WHEREAS, February is the birth month of both Abraham Lincoln
60 and Frederick Douglass, two of the leaders in the movement to
61 abolish slavery, and has been recognized at the local, state, and
62 national levels as an appropriate month to commemorate the
63 contributions of African Americans to our society, NOW,
64 THEREFORE,

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

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68 That February 2008 is recognized as "Black History Month" in
69 the State of Florida, and the Florida Senate calls upon the
70 people of this state to observe Black History Month through
71 programs, ceremonies, and activities celebrating the historical
72 and cultural contributions of African Americans.