

By Senator Rich

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States, the State of Florida, and Israel.

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish State of Israel, and

WHEREAS, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and, through that vote, to create the State of Israel, and

WHEREAS, officially declared an independent nation on May 14, 1948, Israel plans a series of events to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, which began on November 29, 2007, the 60th anniversary of the vote on the Partition Plan, and

WHEREAS, the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established 3,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel, and

WHEREAS, a century ago at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, participants under the leadership of Theodore Herzl affirmed the desire to reestablish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel, and

WHEREAS, in its 60 years of existence, Israel has become the most successful democracy in the Middle East, and its citizens enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the region, and

WHEREAS, born in the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has from its inception faced the hostility, and frequently the armed aggression, of its neighbors, and

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30 WHEREAS, since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern
31 State of Israel has rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic
32 society, and created a unique and vital economic, political,
33 cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of six
34 wars, terrorism, international ostracism, and economic boycotts,
35 and

36 WHEREAS, despite difficult and often dangerous
37 circumstances, Israel has prospered, blessed with a succession of
38 great leaders from David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir to Menachem
39 Begin and Yitzhak Rabin, and

40 WHEREAS, Israel continues to strive for peace with security
41 and dignity for themselves and their neighbors, and

42 WHEREAS, the connection between the State of Florida and
43 Israel is reflected by the support of the Florida Israel
44 Institute as well as other cultural and business exchanges, and

45 WHEREAS, today cities throughout Florida have Sister City
46 and Partnership 2000 relationships with cities in Israel, and

47 WHEREAS, with the anniversary observance taking place
48 throughout the year, Israel will celebrate its anniversary with
49 events marking the birth and development of the state, the
50 struggle to find peace and security, and its hopes for the
51 future, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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55 That the Senate recognizes the historic significance of the
56 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and
57 independent modern State of Israel; commends the people of Israel
58 for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a

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59 pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East; reaffirms the
60 bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between
61 the United States and Israel for six decades and which have been
62 significant for both countries; recommits to working with Israel
63 to ensure its security in its quest for peace with its neighbors
64 and the countries in the region; and extends the warmest
65 congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her
66 people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
68 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Israeli
69 Ambassador Sallai Meridor as a tangible token of the sentiments
70 of the Florida Senate.