

By Senator Wilson

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Barrington Irving on his attaining two world records in aviation.

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2007, Barrington Irving, a 23-year-old senior majoring in aeronautical studies at Florida Memorial University, climbed into a single-engine Columbia 400 aircraft called "Inspiration" and embarked on a 26,800-mile, round-the-world flight, and

WHEREAS, when he returned to Miami on June 27th, he was celebrated for setting two world records - he is the first person of African descent and the youngest person ever to fly solo around the globe, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Irving traversed four continents, clocking more than 130 hours of flight time on a 97-day "World Flight Adventure" that included landings in the Azores, Spain, Greece, Egypt, Dubai, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan, and

WHEREAS, born in Kingston, Jamaica, and raised in inner-city Miami, Mr. Irving is a graduate of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and is a Mentor in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, and

WHEREAS, while a student at Florida Memorial University, Mr. Irving earned Private and Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor licenses as well as his Instrument Rating and, in 2005, he founded a nonprofit organization, Experience Aviation, Inc., to address the significant shortage of youth pursuing careers in Aviation and Aerospace, and

WHEREAS, supported by a \$10,000 grant from the Miami Dade Empowerment Trust, Barrington Irving offered guidance and

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30 training to young people in South Florida through a program that
31 included flying touring planes and learning how to use a flight
32 simulator and he received an additional commitment of \$75,000 to
33 expand the program and reach more youth in the community, and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Irving used these funds to set up what he hopes
35 will be the first of many Experience Aviation Learning Centers at
36 Miami's Opa-locka Executive Airport using donated computers and
37 Microsoft Flight Simulator software, and

38 WHEREAS, Barrington Irving's successful endeavors in
39 aviation and his dedication to making aviation education and
40 training available to many young people are magnificent
41 accomplishments and represent an energy and a vision that inspire
42 us all, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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46 That the Senate congratulates and applauds Barrington Irving
47 and recognizes this 16th day of April, 2008, as "Barrington
48 Irving Day" in the State of Florida.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
50 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Barrington Irving
51 as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.