

By Senator Hill

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High
3 School Panthers football team as a Florida High School
4 Athletic Association Team of the Century.

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6 WHEREAS, under Head Coach Earl Kitchings, Matthew Gilbert
7 High School had the first "organized" high school football
8 program in the City of Jacksonville, and

9 WHEREAS, the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers
10 football team has been recognized as one of the most talented in
11 Florida history, and

12 WHEREAS, the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers
13 football team went 11-0 when it defeated Dillard High School in
14 Ft. Lauderdale by a score of 14-7 in the first black high school
15 state championship game in Florida, and

16 WHEREAS, the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers
17 football team was, and continues to be, a source of great pride
18 in Jacksonville's black community, and

19 WHEREAS, the Florida High School Athletic Association in
20 2007 recognized the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers
21 football team as one of ten Teams of the Century, and

22 WHEREAS, 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers football
23 Head Coach Earl Kitchings, coaches William Huggins and Alvin
24 White, trainers Alfred Chambliss and Varn Ford, assistant
25 trainer Oliver Seabrook, statistician Elbert Robinson, and
26 teammates Cicero Bell, Bernard Berry, John Bush, Issac Carnes,
27 Kenneth Clair, James Clark, Russell Davis, Donald Dixon, Lee
28 Fayson, Eddie Griffin, Milton Griffin, Charles Grover, Eugene
29 Hardy, Willie Haywood, Louis Hill, Walter Jackson, Jesse

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30 Johnson, Harold Jones, Oliver Joyce, Charles Kohn, Willie Kohn,
31 Joseph Lane, Randolph Lee, Kirkland McKenzie, Roy Mitchell,
32 Roosevelt Morrell, James Murphy, Oliver Nelson, Bobby Newsome,
33 Charles Sapp, Leon Smith, Charles Spencer, Charles Sutton,
34 Ulysees Walker, Enoch Webster, James Whaley, and Robert Williams
35 recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their championship
36 season, NOW, THEREFORE,

37

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

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40 That the 1958 Matthew Gilbert High School Panthers football
41 coaches, staff, and team be recognized by all Floridians for
42 their outstanding skill, sportsmanship, and fierce
43 competitiveness and for their recognition by the Florida High
44 School Athletic Association as the top prep school football team
45 of the 1950s and a Team of the Century.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
47 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to 1958 Matthew
48 Gilbert High School Panthers football Head Coach Earl Kitchings
49 as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.