

By Senator Joyner

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 2009 as "Black  
3 History Month" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, our nation has celebrated Black History during the  
6 month of February since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established  
7 Negro History Week, and the theme for this year's celebration is  
8 the "Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas," and

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, as a testament of strength throughout these  
24 struggles, African Americans such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner  
25 Truth, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington,  
26 George Washington Carver, Carter G. Woodson, Malcolm X.,  
27 Thurgood Marshall, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie  
28 Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, and Barbara Jordan have contributed  
29 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,  
32 Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald,  
33 Dizzy Gillespie, Leontyne Price, Marian Anderson, Andre Watts,  
34 James DePreist, Phyllis Wheatley, Langston Hughes, James  
35 Baldwin, Richard Wright, Alex Haley, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker,  
36 Gwendolyn Brooks, and Toni Morrison, the culture of the United  
37 States of America has been 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 is the only athlete to earn both an Olympic  
41 Gold Medal and an NFL Super Bowl Ring, Tiger Woods, Venus  
42 Williams, and Serena Williams, have demonstrated their ability  
43 to be role models on and off the field and in and out of the  
44 ring as 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  
53 McLeod Bethune, have proudly represented our state as they  
54 contributed to the history and culture of the United States of  
55 America, and

56 WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the many achievements  
57 of African Americans in an effort to offer each American a  
58 broader perspective of United States history and an appreciation

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59 for the diversity that makes this country strong, and

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

66

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

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69 That February 2009 is recognized as "Black History Month"  
70 in the State of Florida, and the Florida Senate calls upon the  
71 people of this state to observe Black History Month through  
72 programs, ceremonies, and activities celebrating the historical  
73 and cultural contributions of African Americans.