

By Senator Gaetz

4-01005-09

20092794

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing and celebrating 2009 as  
Panama City's Centennial Year.

WHEREAS, three visionaries, George Mortimer West, Robert  
Lee McKenzie, and A.J. Gay in 1906 formed the Gulf Coast  
Development Company and mapped development plans for an area in  
the Panhandle of Florida previously known as Floriopolis, Park  
Resort, and Harrison, and

WHEREAS, these visionaries saw the opportunity to promote  
the area as a direct shipping port to the Panama Canal, which  
was under construction at the time, and officially changed its  
name to Panama City, and

WHEREAS, construction of the home of Panama City Mayor  
Robert Lee McKenzie was completed in 1909, which coincides with  
the birth of this beautiful and vibrant city, and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1926, the State of Florida passed  
legislation combining three municipalities, Panama City, St.  
Andrews, and Millville, into one municipality known as Panama  
City, and

WHEREAS, the population of Panama City was 12,000 in 1926  
and today stands at 36,806, and

WHEREAS, Panama City was founded by dreamers who had global  
vision and continues to be a beautiful and vibrant community of  
citizens who have dreams and visions for the future, NOW,  
THEREFORE,

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

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30           That 2009 is recognized as "The City of Panama City's  
31 Centennial Year," and people throughout the state are urged to  
32 celebrate this centennial and plan for the coming 100 years, as  
33 Panama City honors the past, celebrates the present, and  
34 continues to imagine the future.

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
36 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Mayor of the  
37 City of Panama City as a tangible token of the sentiments of the  
38 Florida Senate.