

By Senator Storms

10-04614-09

20092796__

1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the Florida Strawberry
3 Festival for its preservation of community and
4 celebration of harvest.

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6 WHEREAS, the Florida Strawberry Festival originated in 1930
7 to celebrate Plant City's blessed heritage, including a
8 bountiful harvest of strawberries, and

9 WHEREAS, the Florida Strawberry Festival continues to
10 preserve and enhance the agricultural and historical legacy of
11 the Florida strawberry, and

12 WHEREAS, Plant City produces three-fourths of the nation's
13 mid-winter strawberries, which are grown on 8,650 acres,
14 generate an annual revenue of more than \$343 million, and
15 account for 40 percent of Hillsborough County's total
16 agriculture sales, and

17 WHEREAS, the Florida Strawberry Festival has become one of
18 the best strawberry festivals across the nation and was ranked
19 35th on the list of "Top 50 North American Fairs" in 2008, and

20 WHEREAS, the Florida Strawberry Festival is a community-
21 oriented event governed by a devoted board of directors and has
22 never been subsidized by taxpayers, and

23 WHEREAS, every year the Florida Strawberry Festival holds a
24 pageant and selects a festival queen and court, and

25 WHEREAS, throughout the years the Florida Strawberry
26 Association has awarded 299 scholarships, totaling \$206,500 for
27 the educational benefit of young people, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That the Senate recognizes the Florida Strawberry Festival for its preservation of community and celebration of harvest, commends the thousands of volunteers who give of their time to guarantee the success of the festival each year, and encourages all Floridians to visit the Florida Strawberry Festival and join in this celebration of Plant City's rich heritage.