

By Senator Aronberg

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing 2011 as the "Centennial Year of U.S. Naval Aviation."

WHEREAS, on January 26, 1911, Glenn H. Curtiss conducted the first successful demonstration of a sea plane in San Diego Harbor, thus affirming the application of airplanes for naval purposes, and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 1911, Capt. Washington Irving Chambers prepared a requisition for the purchase of the U.S. Navy's first aircraft, and this date would later be designated as the birthday of U.S. Naval aviation, and

WHEREAS, during the first century of naval aviation, numerous milestones have been observed, including the birth of Marine Corps aviation on May 22, 1912; the commission of the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley, in 1922; the first takeoff from, and landing on, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, also in 1922; and, in 1942, the first naval engagement in which ships of the opposing forces were not in sight of each other, and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1962, Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr., USMC, became the first American to orbit the earth, and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 1969, former naval aviator Neil Armstrong became the first American to set foot on the surface of the moon, and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 1974, Lt. j.g. Barbara Ann Allen (Rainey) became the first female naval aviator in our nation's history, and

WHEREAS, among the many milestones that have marked the

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30 first century of U.S. Naval aviation, a number of significant
31 achievements within the State of Florida have had considerable
32 impact, both nationwide as well as statewide, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida is home to four Naval air stations, NAS
34 Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field in Milton, NAS Key West, and NAS
35 Jacksonville, with Jacksonville also being the home to Naval
36 Station Mayport, which supports air operations, and

37 WHEREAS, on April 23, 1940, Naval Air Station (NAS)
38 Jacksonville became the only military installation in the United
39 States that was given as a gift from the people to the United
40 States government, and

41 WHEREAS, the gift of NAS Jacksonville was followed by the
42 official commissioning of the naval air station on October 15,
43 1940, and

44 WHEREAS, NAS Jacksonville was the original home of the
45 Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team, who performed
46 their first show at Craig Field in Jacksonville on June 15,
47 1946, and

48 WHEREAS, NAS Jacksonville also became the home of the
49 Naval Air Advanced Training Command, and

50 WHEREAS, in 1914, the Pensacola Navy yard was officially
51 changed from a naval yard to a naval air station, thus becoming
52 the first naval air station in the U.S. Navy and the primary
53 training facility for all naval aviators and enlisted aircrew
54 personnel, and

55 WHEREAS, in 1954, NAS Pensacola became the new home of the
56 Navy's Blue Angels, and

57 WHEREAS, in July 1943, NAS Whiting Field opened as a
58 training facility to fulfill the need for pilot training

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59 commands in World War II, and

60 WHEREAS, today NAS Whiting Field is responsible for an
61 estimated 46 percent of the Chief of Naval Air Command's total
62 flight time and over 10 percent of the Navy's and the Marine
63 Corps' total flight time, and

64 WHEREAS, every year an estimated 1,200 personnel complete
65 their essential flight training at NAS Whiting Field on their
66 way to becoming naval pilots, and

67 WHEREAS, on October 21, 1948, Jesse Brown became the U.S.
68 Navy's first African-American pilot when he was awarded his
69 wings at NAS Jacksonville, and

70 WHEREAS, it is with great pride and sense of accomplishment
71 that the citizens of the State of Florida join with all citizens
72 of the United States in recognizing 2011 as the "Centennial Year
73 of U.S. Naval Aviation," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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77 That the Senate recognizes 2011 as the "Centennial Year of
78 U.S. Naval Aviation."