

By Senator Altman

24-00626-10

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress to direct that one of the retiring  
space shuttle orbiters be preserved and placed on  
permanent display at the Kennedy Space Center.

WHEREAS, the space shuttle program was a technical  
milestone, producing the first reusable orbital spacecraft, and  
has been the mainstay of the nation's manned space flight  
program, and

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
launched the first space shuttle mission in 1981 from the  
Kennedy Space Center, the location from which all subsequent  
missions have been launched, and

WHEREAS, since 1981, there have been over 125 shuttle  
missions, with the last planned shuttle flight scheduled for  
launch from the Kennedy Space Center in September 2010, and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2008, the space shuttle program was  
responsible for approximately 15 percent of the Kennedy Space  
Center's budget allocation, and more than 40,000 jobs in this  
state are estimated to be attributable to the space center's  
operations, an indication that, in addition to its historical  
importance, the shuttle program has been of significant economic  
importance to Floridians, and

WHEREAS, after the tragic losses of Challenger in 1986 and  
Columbia in 2003, three orbiters remain in the shuttle fleet:  
Atlantis, Discovery, and Endeavor, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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31           That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to  
32 direct that one of the retiring space shuttle orbiters be  
33 preserved and placed on permanent display at the Kennedy Space  
34 Center.

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
36 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
37 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
38 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
39 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.