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2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to direct that one of the retiring
4 space shuttle orbiters be preserved and placed on
5 permanent display at the Kennedy Space Center.
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7 WHEREAS, the space shuttle program was a technical
8 milestone, producing the first reusable orbital spacecraft, and
9 has been the mainstay of the nation's manned space flight
10 program, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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