

By Senator Joyner

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing February 2011 as "Black
3 History Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, our nation has celebrated Black History during the
6 month of February since 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established
7 Negro History Week, and the theme for this year's celebration is
8 "African Americans and the Civil War," and

9 WHEREAS, long ago, approximately 12 million African men,
10 women, and children were forced to enter ships for lives of
11 slavery in the Western Hemisphere, 10 million of whom survived
12 the Middle Passage to arrive in America, and

13 WHEREAS, the Civil War erupted because the ideals upon
14 which this country was founded are in direct conflict with
15 slavery, resulting in the ratification of the 13th Amendment,
16 abolishing slavery in the United States of America, and

17 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century
18 began in an effort to correct the failures of Reconstruction and
19 erase the remnants of slavery still evident in Jim Crow laws, in
20 continued segregation in nearly every aspect of daily life, and
21 in the persistence of second-class citizenship for African
22 Americans, and

23 WHEREAS, as a testament of strength throughout these
24 struggles, African Americans, such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner
25 Truth, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington,
26 George Washington Carver, Carter G. Woodson, Malcolm X.,
27 Thurgood Marshall, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie
28 Lou Hamer, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, and Dorothy Height,
29 have contributed to the political and social growth of American

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30 society, and

31 WHEREAS, through the contributions of African American
32 musicians and writers, such as Louis Armstrong, Count Basie,
33 Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald,
34 Dizzy Gillespie, Leontyne Price, Marian Anderson, Andre Watts,
35 James DePreist, Phyllis Wheatley, Langston Hughes, James
36 Baldwin, Richard Wright, Alex Haley, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker,
37 Gwendolyn Brooks, and Toni Morrison, the culture of the United
38 States of America has been vitally enriched, and

39 WHEREAS, African American sports figures, such as Jesse
40 Owens, Arthur Ashe, Muhammad Ali, Robert "Bullet Bob" Hayes, a
41 Florida native who is the only athlete to earn both an Olympic
42 Gold Medal and an NFL Super Bowl Ring, Lee Roy Selmon, Venus
43 Williams, and Serena Williams, have demonstrated their ability
44 to be role models on and off the field and in and out of the
45 ring as they stood up for their rights and beliefs, and

46 WHEREAS, the fields of medicine, science, and technology
47 have all been advanced by the contributions of such African
48 American men and women as Dr. Charles Drew, Dr. Daniel Hale
49 Williams, Garrett Morgan, George Washington Carver, Dr. Mae C.
50 Jemison, and Dr. Benjamin Carson, and

51 WHEREAS, African Americans who are native to Florida, such
52 as Zora Neale Hurston, Charles Kenzie Steele, Sr., Jesse K.
53 McCrary, Jr., Joseph E. Lee, Asa Philip Randolph, and Mary
54 McLeod Bethune, have proudly represented our state as they
55 contributed to the history and culture of the United States of
56 America, and

57 WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the many achievements
58 of African Americans in an effort to offer each American a

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59 broader perspective of United States history and an appreciation
60 for the diversity that makes this country strong, and

61 WHEREAS, February is the birth month of both Abraham
62 Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two of the leaders in the
63 movement to abolish slavery, and has been recognized at the
64 local, state, and national levels as an appropriate month to
65 commemorate the contributions of African Americans to our
66 society, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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70 That February 2011 is recognized as "Black History Month"
71 in the State of Florida, and the Florida Senate calls upon the
72 people of this state to observe Black History Month through
73 programs, ceremonies, and activities celebrating the historical
74 and cultural contributions of African Americans.