

By Senator Flores

37-03559-13

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution celebrating Franco-Floridian  
3 relationships and recognizing Florida's rich French  
4 heritage.

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6 WHEREAS, in 2012, the celebration of the 450th anniversary  
7 of a French presence in Florida commenced, with recognition of  
8 the first French expedition, led by Jean Ribault, which landed  
9 in Florida in the spring of 1562, and

10 WHEREAS, the celebration will continue through 2015, as we  
11 recognize a second expedition which, with the help of the  
12 Timucuan, led to the founding of the first French settlement on  
13 American soil, Fort Caroline near what is now Jacksonville, on  
14 June 30, 1564, and

15 WHEREAS, in October 2012, the French-American Chamber of  
16 Commerce in Miami, in partnership with the French Consulate,  
17 organized the first Miami-Nice Jazz Festival, which highlighted  
18 the partnership between the cities of Nice and Miami, which have  
19 been sister cities since 1963, and

20 WHEREAS, the number of sister city relationships between  
21 Florida communities and France has grown to 15, with the signing  
22 of a sister-city agreement between Cognac and the Village of  
23 Pinecrest, which will focus on educational initiatives, and

24 WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of international  
25 cooperation, public schools in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties  
26 now offer a unique bilingual curriculum in French and English,  
27 known as International Studies, which allows K-12 students to  
28 simultaneously attend both the American and the French programs  
29 and obtain respective diplomas, and

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30 WHEREAS, the France Florida Foundation for the Arts is a  
31 nonprofit organization created to promote French art and culture  
32 in this state and to support cultural, educational, and artistic  
33 exchanges between France and Florida through exhibitions,  
34 performances, lectures, and other cultural events that reflect  
35 the quality of French artists and scholars today, thereby  
36 promoting knowledge of the French language, history, and culture  
37 among local students and citizens, and

38 WHEREAS, it is estimated that about 30,000 French citizens  
39 currently reside in this state, providing some 18,000 jobs and  
40 contributing significantly to the economic well-being of all  
41 Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

42

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

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45 That we celebrate Franco-Floridian relationships and  
46 recognize Florida's rich French heritage.