

By Senator Latvala

20-05230-13

20131912__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing "Flight 2014, The Centennial Celebration of The World's First Airline."

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1914, Tony Jannus made aviation history by flying the Benoist #14 on the inaugural 22-minute flight of the St. Petersburg to Tampa Airboat Line, the world's first scheduled commercial airline, and

WHEREAS, the events of that day fostered an industry that has made worldwide travel not only possible, but practical, and

WHEREAS, that pioneering flight exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that has evolved into an industry that has an economic impact in this state of nearly \$100 billion and in the nation of more than \$1.3 trillion, and

WHEREAS, today, Florida has more than 100 airports, with 14 enjoying international status and 60 commercial air carriers serving the nation and employing more than 500,000 persons, and

WHEREAS, as the 100th anniversary of this historic event grows near, plans are underway to commemorate the flight with a reenactment using a full-scale replica airboat, and

WHEREAS, this prediction by Percival Fansler, founder of the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line, has proved prophetic: "The Airboat Line to Tampa will be only a forerunner of great activity along these lines in the near future. . . What was impossible yesterday is an accomplishment of today—while tomorrow heralds the unbelievable," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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30 That we recognize "Flight 2014, The Centennial Celebration
31 of The World's First Airline," and express appreciation to the
32 three founding organizations of the commemoration, the Florida
33 Aviation Historical Society, the St. Petersburg Museum of
34 History, and the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society.