

By Senator Bean

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the
3 Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Boat Races and Festival.

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5 WHEREAS, Fernandina Beach is the birthplace of the modern
6 shrimping industry and, for more than a century, has produced
7 the finest wild-caught shrimp brought in by skilled, hardworking
8 fishermen plying the inland and offshore state and federal
9 waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, and

10 WHEREAS, the Shrimp Boat Races and Festival began in 1963,
11 under the guidance of Dee Dee Bartels, president of the
12 Historical Society, with assistance from Melvin Daugherty, Billy
13 Burbank, Jr., Joe Tringali, and Ray Caldwell, and

14 WHEREAS, the Cook, Tringali, and Lang families were the
15 first to participate in racing, with the late Dave Cook's
16 daughter, Arnez Cook Jones, playing an active role in shrimping
17 history, and

18 WHEREAS, Caterpillar and other businesses supported the
19 race and donated prizes, and family members prepared, served,
20 and sold seafood gumbo, and

21 WHEREAS, shrimp boats racing during the 1960s and 1970s
22 included the Captain D. A. Cook, Sr., the Lady Annie, the
23 Charlie B., the Annie, the Haze, the Atlantic Sun, the Dixie
24 Queen, the Jerry and Linda, the Miss Melody, the Miss Louise,
25 the Miss Nina Jo, the Beach King, the Florida Boys, the Wanda
26 Peggy, the Eight Flags, the Lady Belle, the Mr. Fox, the Little
27 David, the Murdock, the Pryor, the Ebb Tide, the Chickadee, the
28 Miss Hazel, the Jitterbug, the Golden Isles, the Gray Ghost, the
29 Miss Carol J., the Delores D., the Capt. Flossy, the Golden

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30 Knight, the Golden Nugget, and others, and

31 WHEREAS, Fernandina Beach native Wendell Herbert
32 McCollough, born in 1914, held the distinction of being the only
33 African-American shrimper to enter and win the Fernandina Beach
34 shrimp boat races, winning in 1969 on Joe Tringali's boat, the
35 Ebb Tide, and

36 WHEREAS, the shrimp boat races signaled the start of the
37 shrimping season, and, in the 1970s, the Eight Flags Shrimp Boat
38 Races was renamed the Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Boat Races and
39 Festival, and

40 WHEREAS, shrimp boat races continued until 1974, when the
41 cost of fuel became prohibitive, and

42 WHEREAS, shrimpers continue to contribute to the well-being
43 and quality of life of their families and all Floridians,
44 playing a vital role in competing with imported farm-raised
45 shrimp, providing jobs, and contributing valuable natural
46 resources to the local economy and community, and

47 WHEREAS, in 2005, as part of the celebration of Super Bowl
48 XXXIX, the Shrimp Producers Association and the Amelia Island-
49 Fernandina Beach-Yulee Chamber of Commerce organized an event,
50 and Janie Thomas secured a permit that allowed two shrimp boats,
51 representing the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England
52 Patriots, respectively, to race and 36 shrimp boats representing
53 different NFL and AFL teams to participate in the "Super Shrimp
54 Boat Race and Parade," the "Super Hermit Crab Races," and the
55 "Super Shellfish Feast," and

56 WHEREAS, shrimpers have earned the respect of the general
57 public for their dedication and contribution to people's lives,
58 working positively with the state and federal governments to

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59 protect sea turtles and other marine life using efficient and
60 effective devices, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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64 That we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Isle of Eight
65 Flags Shrimp Boat Races and Festival.