

By Senator Bullard

39-01253-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the City of Homestead on the occasion of its centennial.

WHEREAS, Homestead, the second oldest city in Miami-Dade County, was originally opened to homesteaders in 1898, with the only way in and out of the area being a path called the "Homesteaders Trail," and

WHEREAS, in 1904, Henry Flagler decided to extend the rail line from Miami to Key West, and farmers were, for the first time, able to transport their fruit and vegetables to Miami and other parts of the state, and

WHEREAS, the name of this city originated from the period during which the Florida East Coast Railway extension was being constructed, as the rail line passed through an area that had been opened up for homesteading, and

WHEREAS, the construction camp at the end of the line lacked a specific name, so the area was designated as "Homestead Country," which was shortened to "Homestead" by the engineers who mapped the area, and

WHEREAS, many of the workers who helped build the railroad stayed in the area and founded the City of Homestead in 1913, and

WHEREAS, today, Homestead has gone from its original population of 121 to more than 60,000 residents and the once "little railroad town" has blossomed into a thriving city of diverse cultures and heritage, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That we congratulate the City of Homestead on achieving its 100th year as a thriving locality that serves as an indispensable part of Florida's economy and culture.