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House Resolution A resolution recognizing 2015 as "Victory Florida Year" in the State of Florida. WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and WHEREAS, the end of World War II in Europe was announced on May 8, 1945, and in the Pacific on August 14, 1945, enabling Floridians to gratefully welcome home their heroic servicemembers, and WHEREAS, victory preserved the founding principles of our nation and the inalienable rights of all American citizens, and WHEREAS, freedom prevailed in the United States and Europe when tyranny was replaced by democracy and millions of people
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14 when tyranny was replaced by democracy and millions of people
15 were liberated from oppression, and
16 WHEREAS, more than 16 million Americans served during the
17 war, over 250,000 of whom were Floridians, exemplifying the
18 bravery and patriotism of that generation of Americans, and
19 WHEREAS, many Floridians wore the uniform of soldier,
20 sailor, airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman, or Merchant Mariner,
21 giving the best years of their lives to the greatest mission our
22 nation ever accepted, and
23 WHEREAS, thousands of additional Floridians contributed to
24 the war effort at home by caring for the sick and building roads
25 and military training installations, and
26 WHEREAS, the State of Florida contributed to the war effort
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27 through agriculture and innovation and by serving as a tourist 28 destination for hardworking civilian workers and servicemembers 29 to rest and recuperate, and

30 WHEREAS, World War II set the stage for rapid modernization 31 in Florida, transforming a rural, agricultural state into a 32 modern, dynamic center and advancing it from the 29th-most 33 populous state in 1940 to the 3rd-most populous state in the 34 country today, and

35 WHEREAS, after World War II ended, military bases became 36 civilian airports, Cape Canaveral became an important site for 37 the nation's space program, and affordable education, due to the 38 GI Bill, contributed to the rapid postwar expansion of Florida's 39 higher education system, and

40 WHEREAS, Florida's significant role in World War II helped 41 ensure victory for our nation and prosperity for Floridians from 42 that day forth, NOW, THEREFORE,

44 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of 45 Florida:

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That 2015 is recognized as "Victory Florida Year" in the State of Florida, and that all citizens, counties, cities, businesses, churches, museums, and veterans' organizations in the state are urged to remember the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the contributions of the state and its servicemembers during this extraordinary time in history.

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