

By Senators Joyner and Thompson

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing March 2016 as "Women's  
3 History Month" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, women have made historic contributions to the  
6 growth and strength of this state in countless ways, recorded  
7 and unrecorded, and

8 WHEREAS, women have played, and continue to play, a  
9 critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of  
10 life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force,  
11 working inside and outside the home, and

12 WHEREAS, women have played a unique role throughout the  
13 history of this nation by providing the majority of our  
14 volunteer labor force, and were particularly important in the  
15 establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural  
16 institutions, and

17 WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background  
18 served as early leaders in the forefront of every major  
19 progressive movement to improve society, and

20 WHEREAS, women have been leaders not only in securing their  
21 own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the  
22 abolitionist movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil  
23 rights movement, the environmental justice movement, and other  
24 social justice campaigns, especially the peace movement,  
25 creating a more fair and just society for all, and

26 WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women has  
27 been consistently overlooked and undervalued in literature and  
28 in the teaching and study of history, and

29 WHEREAS, in recognition of the contributions of women,  
30 Congress has passed a resolution each year since 1987  
31 designating the month of March as "Women's History Month," and

32 WHEREAS, in 2016 the theme of Women's History Month is

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33 "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public  
34 Service and Government" and the month of March presents special  
35 opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of women,  
36 including Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, who have shaped  
37 America's history and its future through their public service  
38 and leadership, and

39 WHEREAS, among the 2016 Women's History Month national  
40 honorees are Sonia Pressman Fuentes, who graduated first in her  
41 class from the University of Miami School of Law in 1957, was a  
42 co-founder of the National Organization for Women, and became  
43 the first woman attorney in the Office of the General Counsel at  
44 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Nadine Smith, a  
45 civil rights activist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and  
46 transgender civil rights movement and executive director of  
47 Equality Florida; and the late Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, the first  
48 and only female chief of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, who was  
49 a nurse and the co-founder and editor of the tribe's first  
50 newspaper, the Seminole News, and

51 WHEREAS, on January 27, 2016, three outstanding women,  
52 Carol Jenkins Barnett of Lakeland, Helen Aguirre Ferré of Miami  
53 Shores, and Elmira Louise Leto of Key West, will be inducted  
54 into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, and

55 WHEREAS, we honor women pioneers in the Florida  
56 Legislature, including the late Representative Edna Giles Fuller  
57 and the late Senator Beth Johnson, both of whom represented  
58 Orange County, the first women to serve in their respective  
59 chambers in 1929 and 1962, respectively; the late Senator Mary  
60 R. Grizzle, the first Republican woman to serve in the Florida  
61 Legislature, who was elected to the House of Representatives in

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62 1963; the late Representative Gwen Sawyer Cherry, who, in 1970,  
63 became the first black woman elected to serve in the Florida  
64 Legislature; Senator Carrie Meek, who, in 1982, became the first  
65 black woman elected to the Florida Senate; Representative Ileana  
66 Ros-Lehtinen, who now represents Florida's 27th district in  
67 Congress and who, in 1982, became the first Hispanic woman to  
68 serve in the Florida House of Representatives and, in 1986,  
69 became the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Florida Senate;  
70 Senator Gwen Margolis, who was elected Senate President in 1990,  
71 making her the first legislative woman presiding officer in this  
72 state and the first woman Senate President in any state; and  
73 Senator Toni Jennings, who became the first Republican woman  
74 presiding officer when she was elected Senate President in 1996,  
75 NOW, THEREFORE,

76

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

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79 That March 2016 is recognized as "Women's History Month" in  
80 Florida, and we call upon the residents of this state to  
81 participate in programs, ceremonies, and activities to foster an  
82 awareness of and appreciation for the contributions made by  
83 women which have benefited and improved society.