

By Senator Hukill

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Senate Resolution

A resolution congratulating American Pharoah's Florida trainers, J.B. McKathan and Kevin McKathan, on American Pharoah's victories in the 2015 Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing.

WHEREAS, a horse must win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes in order to achieve the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing, regarded as the greatest accomplishment that a racehorse can attain, and

WHEREAS, American Pharoah, owned by Ahmed Zayat of Teaneck, New Jersey, is the first horse since Florida's Affirmed in 1978 to win the Triple Crown, thus becoming the 12th Thoroughbred to accomplish that feat, and

WHEREAS, American Pharoah was trained by Bob Baffert, and

WHEREAS, jockey Victor Espinoza successfully rode American Pharoah in each of the three races leading to the Triple Crown, and

WHEREAS, American Pharoah comes from the Florida bloodlines of champions Unbridled and Tri Jet and is a descendant of 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat, and

WHEREAS, brothers J.B. McKathan and Kevin McKathan are partners in the McKathan Brothers Training Center in Citra, where J.B. provided early schooling for the colt American Pharoah, and

WHEREAS, the McKathan brothers have been raising and training racehorses for decades, bringing up several Kentucky Derby winners, including back-to-back championships for the trainers in 1997 and 1998, and

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30 WHEREAS, training horses requires dedication, strength, and
31 patience, and the McKathan brothers are widely known for their
32 hard work and devotion to this endeavor, and

33 WHEREAS, the McKathan brothers' success comes nearly four
34 decades after the last triumph of this level occurred with
35 Affirmed, also a champion from Marion County, and

36 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate commends the McKathan brothers
37 for their work, which ensures that Marion County remains one of
38 the prime areas for raising some of the best racehorses in the
39 sport, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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43 That J.B. McKathan and Kevin McKathan, American Pharoah's
44 Florida trainers, are congratulated on American Pharoah's
45 victories in the 2015 Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
47 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to J.B. McKathan
48 and Kevin McKathan as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
49 Florida Senate for their part in this historic event.