

By Senator Hukill

14-02534B-17

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution celebrating the anniversary of the
3 founding of Port Orange and recognizing April 26,
4 2017, as "Port Orange Day" in Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, Port Orange has a rich history, shaped by a number
7 of explorers who worked to tame a wild and unforgiving
8 environment, and

9 WHEREAS, in 1768, Andrew Turnbull established the New
10 Smyrna Colony, and

11 WHEREAS, in 1804, Spain granted Patrick Dean 995 acres of
12 land in the area, where he built a sugar cane plantation named
13 Dunlawton, and

14 WHEREAS, in 1866, John Milton Hawks, an abolitionist and
15 United States Army Surgeon, along with other Union officers,
16 formed the Florida Land and Lumber Company and came with 500
17 freed slaves to live on public lands along the Halifax River,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in February 1867, Dr. Hawks moved the settlement
20 from the Ponce Inlet, then known as the Mosquito Inlet, to its
21 current location, and in April of that year the settlement was
22 renamed Port Orange, and

23 WHEREAS, by 1869, only nine families remained in the area
24 now known as Freemanville, which is located around the
25 intersection of Orange Avenue and Charles Street, and, today,
26 the Mount Moriah Baptist Church is the only remnant of the
27 original small community of freed slaves, and

28 WHEREAS, until the early 1890s, Port Orange remained a
29 landlocked community that could be accessed only by steamboat,

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30 hack buggy, or stagecoach, and

31 WHEREAS, Henry Flagler brought his railroad to the area
32 with plans to extend it south, and, in 1894, the Port Orange
33 passenger and freight depot was built, which brought tourism and
34 stimulated commerce, and

35 WHEREAS, winter visitors began to arrive, and a new era of
36 growth took place, creating the demand for boarding houses and
37 other accommodations, and

38 WHEREAS, the railroad provided the ability to move goods
39 from various industries, such as citrus, lumber, boat building,
40 oystering, farming, and the ranching of livestock, and

41 WHEREAS, from the banks of the Halifax River on the east to
42 the environmental preserves on the west, this family-oriented
43 community continues to be an ideal environment for tourism and
44 commerce, and

45 WHEREAS, thanks to the hopes, dreams, and tenacity of early
46 pioneers who persisted despite significant challenges, Port
47 Orange is a vibrant community with a rich heritage that will be
48 enjoyed by future generations, NOW, THEREFORE,

49

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

51

52 That the 150th anniversary of the founding of Port Orange
53 is celebrated, and April 26, 2017, is recognized as "Port Orange
54 Day" in Florida.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
56 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the City of Port
57 Orange as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
58 Senate.