

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
 urging Congress to recognize October 17 as Jean-  
 Jacques Dessalines Day.

WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, regarded as one of the  
 founding fathers of Haiti, is celebrated as a leader who fought  
 for and attained freedom for Haiti's people, and

WHEREAS, as a military leader during the Haitian  
 Revolution, Dessalines went on to serve as the first ruler of an  
 independent Haiti under the 1805 constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Generals of the Haitian Revolution Army  
 proclaimed Dessalines as the Emperor of Haiti in 1804, crowning  
 him as Emperor Jacques I, and

WHEREAS, under Dessalines, Haiti became the first country  
 in the Americas to permanently abolish slavery, and

WHEREAS, Dessalines served as emperor until his  
 assassination during a military revolt on October 17, 1806, the  
 anniversary of which is celebrated in Haiti as Dessalines Day,  
 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Congress of the United States is urged to  
 recognize October 17 as Jean-Jacques Dessalines Day.

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26 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
27 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
28 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
29 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
30 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.