

By Senator Pizzo

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Senate 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
United States House of Representatives, and each member of the

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Florida delegation to the United States Congress.