

By Senator Wright

8-03648-24

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing and celebrating the 85th anniversary of the Florida Highway Patrol.

WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol was established in 1939 and placed under the direction of Colonel H. Neil Kirkman within the Department of Public Safety, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol has served the residents of this state for 85 years under the motto "Service, Courtesy, and Protection," and

WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol's first recruit class consisted of 32 graduates, and by the end of its first full year of operation in 1940, its membership had grown to 59 troopers, and

WHEREAS, in that inaugural year, Florida Highway Patrol troopers patrolled more than 1.9 million miles of roadway and investigated 1,000 traffic accidents in this state that, at that time, had fewer than 2 million residents, and

WHEREAS, as of February 2024, a total of 53 state troopers have died in the line of duty since the creation of the Florida Highway Patrol, and

WHEREAS, known as Florida's Finest, the officers of the Florida Highway Patrol tirelessly uphold the motto established by Colonel Kirkman, providing service, courtesy, and protection while ensuring the safety and welfare of Florida's residents and visitors every day on the roadways of this state, NOW,

THEREFORE,

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

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31 That the Florida Highway Patrol, within the Department of
32 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, is recognized and
33 congratulated on its 85th anniversary, and current, retired, and
34 auxiliary troopers, along with the members of the Florida
35 Highway Patrol Advisory Council, are extended heartfelt
36 gratitude for their invaluable service to the State of Florida.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
38 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Colonel Gary L.
39 Howze, director of the Florida Highway Patrol, as a tangible
40 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.