1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing October 17, 2025, as "Jean-

3 Jacques Dessalines Day" in the State of Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, regarded as one of the

6 founding fathers of Haiti, was born in 1758, and

7 WHEREAS, Dessalines served under the command of acclaimed

8 military leader Toussaint L'Ouverture during the Haitian

9 Revolution to fight for freedom from France, and

10 WHEREAS, when Toussaint L'Ouverture was deported to France

11 in 1802 by Napoleon's forces, Dessalines continued the fight for

12 freedom, and

13 WHEREAS, Dessalines served as Governor-General of Saint-

14 Domingue, which is now Haiti, and went on to serve as the first

15 ruler of an independent Haiti under the 1805 Constitution, and

16 WHEREAS, after freeing the colony from French rule, General

17 Dessalines proclaimed Haiti an independent country on January 1,

18 1804, and

19 WHEREAS, Dessalines declared himself the first emperor of

20 Haiti in 1804, and

21 WHEREAS, under Dessalines, Haiti became the first country

22 in the Americas to permanently abolish slavery, and

23 WHEREAS, according to Haitian historical tradition,

24 Dessalines created the first iteration of the Haitian flag by

25 taking a French flag, tearing out the white stripe of material,

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26 and having a Haitian seamstress, Catherine Flon, sew together

27 the blue and red pieces of material to symbolize freedom and an

28 end to European influence, and

29   WHEREAS, Dessalines served as Emperor of Haiti until his

30 assassination during a military revolt on October 17, 1806, the

31 anniversary of which is celebrated annually in Haiti as

32 Dessalines Day, and

33   WHEREAS, there is a strong connection between Haiti and

34 Florida, with hundreds of thousands of Haitian Americans

35 residing in South Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

36

37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of

38 Florida:

39

40   That October 17, 2025, is designated as "Jean-Jacques

41 Dessalines Day" in the State of Florida.

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