

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing October 17, 2026, 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, Jean-Jacques Dessalines served under the command
8 of acclaimed military leader Toussaint L'Ouverture during the
9 Haitian 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, Jean-Jacques Dessalines continued
12 the fight for freedom, and

13 WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines served as Governor-General
14 of Saint-Domingue, which is now Haiti, and went on to serve as
15 the first ruler of an independent Haiti under the 1805
16 Constitution, and

17 WHEREAS, after freeing the colony from French rule, General
18 Jean-Jacques Dessalines proclaimed Haiti an independent country
19 on January 1, 1804, and

20 WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared himself the first
21 emperor of Haiti in 1804, and

22 WHEREAS, under Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Haiti became the
23 first country in the Americas to permanently abolish slavery,
24 and

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2026

25 WHEREAS, according to Haitian historical tradition, Jean-
26 Jacques Dessalines created the first iteration of the Haitian
27 flag by taking a French flag, tearing out the white stripe, and
28 having a Haitian seamstress, Catherine Flon, sew together the
29 blue and red pieces of material to symbolize freedom and an end
30 to European influence, and

31 WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines served as Emperor of Haiti
32 until his assassination during a military revolt on October 17,
33 1806, the anniversary of which is celebrated annually in Haiti
34 as Dessalines Day, and

35 WHEREAS, there is a strong connection between Haiti and
36 Florida, with hundreds of thousands of Haitian Americans
37 residing in South Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 Florida:

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42 That October 17, 2026, is designated as "Jean-Jacques
43 Dessalines Day" in the State of Florida.