

By Senator Campbell

38-03468-17

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 12, 2017, as "Nigerian-American Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Nigeria) is the most populous country in Africa with more than 177 million residents and is the seventh most populated nation in the world, and

WHEREAS, Nigeria, Africa's largest democracy and economy, is the world's twelfth largest producer of crude oil and has the world's tenth largest proven oil reserves, and

WHEREAS, Nigeria has more than 510 living languages, the world's third largest collection of living languages, including Hausa, Yoruba, Ijaw, Ibibio, Edo, Itsekiri, and Igbo, and

WHEREAS, brave Nigerians volunteered in the "forgotten army" to fight with the 81st and 82nd West African Divisions of the Allied Forces in World War II, served with distinction in various peacekeeping forces, and have been widely recognized in the international community as unrelenting advocates of global peace, and

WHEREAS, there are more than 266,000 Nigerians in the United States, approximately 9,000 of whom reside in Florida, and, according to the United States Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey, Nigerian immigrants in the United States are well-educated, with approximately 96 percent of Nigerian Americans surveyed between 2008 and 2012 having a minimum of a high school education and approximately 61 percent having obtained at least a bachelor's degree, and

WHEREAS, some notable Nigerians include Akinwande Oluwole

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30 "Wole" Babatunde Soyinka, Africa's first winner of the Nobel
31 Prize in Literature; Hakeem Olajuwon, National Basketball
32 Association (NBA) Finals Most Valuable Player and a 12-time NBA
33 All-Star; Chinua Achebe, author of "Things Fall Apart," one of
34 the most widely read novels in modern African literature which
35 has been translated into more than 50 languages and has sold
36 more than 8 million copies worldwide; and Aliko Dangote, a
37 Nigerian billionaire who was ranked by *Forbes* magazine as the
38 richest person of African descent, and

39 WHEREAS, the Nigerian-American community and the nonprofit
40 Nigerian American Foundation strive to increase awareness and
41 understanding of the Nigerian culture through education and
42 collaborative endeavors, such as the annual Nigerian Festival in
43 Miami Gardens which brings people together to enjoy traditional
44 Nigerian culture, music, and performances, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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48 That April 12, 2017, is recognized as "Nigerian-American
49 Day" in Florida and the Nigerian American Foundation is
50 commended for its contributions to Nigerian Americans in this
51 state.