

By Representative Hill

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Curtis L. Johnson,
3 Jacksonville Sheriff's Office 1997 Citizen of
4 the Year.

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6 WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of the Sweetwater
7 community in Jacksonville, where his family has lived since
8 1868, Curtis L. Johnson watched his despairing community
9 deteriorate over the years until 1990 found it to be one in
10 which no less than 90 percent of its residents were affected
11 by illicit drug activity, with its resulting social, family,
12 and individual devastation, and

13 WHEREAS, where others in the community saw a hopeless
14 situation, Curtis L. Johnson saw a problem that could be
15 solved and set about unifying his neighbors in his refusal to
16 lose another generation of children, and

17 WHEREAS, despite neighborhood fear and apathy, Curtis
18 L. Johnson persuaded a small band of concerned residents to
19 come together to discuss the degradation that was engulfing
20 them, an event that led the group to rally others in their
21 crusade to save their children and their community, and

22 WHEREAS, adopting the acronym SOCK, for Save Our
23 Community and Kids, the Sweetwater and Concerned Citizens
24 Community Association, under the energizing leadership of
25 Curtis L. Johnson, began its fight, starting out by offering
26 neighborhood youth a modest after-school and summer program
27 and organizing a Crime Watch effort, each of which began to
28 flourish and prove successful, leading the residents to
29 understand that they had the power to make a difference, and

30 WHEREAS, encouraged and led by Curtis L. Johnson,
31 community volunteers quickly learned to make use of grants and

1 collaborate with others to support and expand their efforts
2 and, today, the Sweetwater community is proud and grateful to
3 be designated a drug-free zone, and

4 WHEREAS, neighborhood leader, role model, and mentor,
5 Curtis L. Johnson is an outstanding example of how one citizen
6 who cares enough to become involved can be instrumental in
7 turning a troubled neighborhood into one of hope, where crime
8 is down, children are participating in wholesome activities,
9 city services are better, and residents are taking pride in
10 their community and working together, NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
13 Florida:

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15 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
16 deliberations to honor Curtis L. Johnson for his outstanding
17 accomplishments and congratulate him on being named the
18 Jacksonville Sheriff's Office 1997 Citizen of the Year.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
20 be presented to Curtis L. Johnson as a tangible token of the
21 sentiments expressed herein.

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