

By Representative Clemons

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring H.M. (Mack) Lewis.

WHEREAS, born in Dothan, Alabama, and moved to Millville, Florida, when he was two, H.M. (Mack) Lewis lived a life dedicated to community service, business, and local economic development until his demise on February 24, 1998, at 81 years of age, and

WHEREAS, as economic pioneers in Bay County, Mack Lewis and his father, with an initial investment of \$12,000, founded a small business in 1940, West Florida Gas Company, which, under Mack's guidance, would enjoy substantial growth and success until its sale in 1985 for \$40 million, and

WHEREAS, as the first chairman of the Panama City Housing Authority, Mack Lewis, with incredible foresight, capitalized on the sale of surplus federal housing units to, in part, create much of what is Panama City's park system, also using the proceeds to purchase the present sites of Gulf Coast Community College and Tommy Oliver Stadium, and

WHEREAS, the first chairman of the Port Authority, Mack Lewis negotiated the purchase of the United States Navy's Wainwright Shipyard, which was developed into the Panama City Port, and, while serving until his death as the only chairman of the Panama City Downtown Improvement Board, he helped in transforming the old City Hall into a Visual Arts Center, renovating the Martin Theater into a meeting hall and performing arts center, and reviving McKenzie Park, the centerpiece of downtown Panama City, and

WHEREAS, his selfless devotion to his wife of more than 50 years, Eleanor Watson Lewis, and his daughter, Nancy Lewis Moore, exemplifies his commitment to family, and his untiring

1 service in and avid support of numerous local organizations
2 are a testament to his hard work, honesty, and integrity, NOW,
3 THEREFORE,

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5 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
6 Florida:

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8 That the House of Representatives hereby honors and
9 commemorates the life and good works of H.M. (Mack) Lewis for
10 his political, economic, and community leadership in Panama
11 City and Bay County.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
13 be presented to Eleanor Watson Lewis and to Nancy Lewis Moore
14 as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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