

By Senator Jones

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution commending Chief Judge Joseph W. Hatchett for his outstanding accomplishments as a jurist, public servant, and distinguished American.

WHEREAS, The Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett has announced his intention to retire from the federal judiciary, effective May 14, 1999, and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett's retirement will mark his completion of more than 30 years of distinguished public service to the State of Florida and the United States of America as a jurist and lawyer, and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett is a native of Clearwater, Florida, and attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (A.B. Degree, 1954 in Political Science); Howard University School of Law (J.D. Degree, 1959), and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett served with great skill and dedication in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Military Judge (Lieutenant Colonel), Retired, 1988; and the United States Army, 1954-1956, and

WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett served as a United States Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (October 1, 1981 to September 30, 1996); United States Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (July 1979 to October 1, 1981); Justice, Supreme Court of Florida (1975-1979); United States Magistrate for the Middle District of Florida (1971-1975); Special Hearing Officer for Conscientious Objectors, Department of Justice (1967-1968); First Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida (1967-1971); Assistant United

1 States Attorney, Jacksonville (1966); Contract Consultant to
2 the City of Daytona Beach (1963-1966); and maintained a
3 private law practice in Daytona Beach from 1959-1966 before
4 assuming his current position as Chief Judge of the United
5 States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on October 1,
6 1996, and

7 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett was the first
8 African-American to be appointed to a state's highest court
9 since Reconstruction, and

10 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett was the first
11 African-American to be elected to a statewide post in the
12 Southern United States, and

13 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett was also the first
14 African-American to serve on a federal appellate court in the
15 Southern United States, and

16 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett has served in numerous
17 elected and appointed positions achieving prominence
18 throughout the legal community, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett has distinguished himself
21 by publishing numerous articles and publications on the
22 subjects of constitutional law, the judicial system, and
23 criminal law in legal journals such as the George Mason
24 University Civil Rights Law Journal, The Florida Bar Journal,
25 the Florida Endowment for the Humanities Florida Forum, the
26 University of Miami Law Review, and Case & Comment, and

27 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett has distinguished himself
28 in the civil rights arena when such activism was unpopular and
29 often life-threatening, and

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1 WHEREAS, Joseph W. Hatchett has been a leader in the
2 judiciary and legal profession, and an inspiration, mentor,
3 and role model for countless Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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7 That the Florida Senate commends Joseph W. Hatchett for
8 his outstanding accomplishments as a jurist, public servant,
9 and distinguished American and encourages all Floridians to
10 pay tribute to his years of service to the State of Florida
11 and the United States of America, and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
13 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Joseph W.
14 Hatchett at his retirement commemoration on May 21, 1999, as a
15 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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