

By Representative Chestnut

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the Reverend Geraldine
3 McClellan.

4
5 WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of both her father
6 and her grandfather, the Reverend Mrs. Geraldine McClellan has
7 been in the ministry for many years, during the last 12 of
8 which she has served as pastor of the 672-member Mt. Pleasant
9 United Methodist Church, the same church her grandfather
10 pastored before her, and

11 WHEREAS, one of eight siblings whose parents
12 persistently emphasized the value of education, the Reverend
13 Geraldine McClellan graduated from high school when she was
14 only 15 years old, received an associate degree from St. Johns
15 River Community College as one of the first African Americans
16 to do so, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from
17 Bethune-Cookman College, and

18 WHEREAS, the Reverend McClellan is the first African
19 American woman to have been ordained a deacon in the Florida
20 Conference of the United Methodist Church, has been recognized
21 with an honorary doctoral degree by Bethune-Cookman College,
22 and has been granted the prestigious LeRoy Collins
23 Distinguished Community College Alumni Award, an honor
24 bestowed by the Florida Association of Community Colleges, and

25 WHEREAS, the high esteem in which the Reverend
26 McClellan is held, as evidenced by the recognitions, honors,
27 and accolades that have so deservedly come her way, pales in
28 comparison with the love and respect accorded her by her
29 family, friends, and congregation and by those downtrodden,
30 hurting individuals who have found assistance and received
31 hope as a result of her selfless ministry, and

1 WHEREAS, in recognition of her dedication to service to
2 others and her ability to change and enhance lives, the
3 Reverend Geraldine McClellan has been appointed by Bishop
4 Cornelius L. Henderson to serve as the superintendent for the
5 Gainesville District of the United Methodist Church as the
6 first African American woman to serve in such capacity, NOW,
7 THEREFORE,

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9 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
10 Florida:

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12 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
13 deliberations to honor the Reverend Geraldine McClellan for
14 the devotion with which she serves her family, her church, and
15 her community, to congratulate her on her appointment to
16 superintendent of the Gainesville District, and to wish her
17 unlimited success as she continues to reach out to minister to
18 those who so desperately need help.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
20 be presented to the Reverend Mrs. Geraldine McClellan as a
21 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.