

By Senators Holzendorf, Lawson, Dawson, Miller, Jones and Meek

2-1928-01

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution expressing regret at the death of
3 Douglas Lee "Tim" Jamerson, former State
4 Representative, Commissioner of Education, and
5 Secretary of Labor and Employment Security.

6
7 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate, with deep regret, has
8 learned of the death of former Representative Douglas Lee
9 Jamerson, and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Jamerson served with
11 distinction in the Florida House of Representatives from 1982
12 until 1993 and later held the offices of Commissioner of
13 Education and Secretary of the Department of Labor and
14 Employment Security, and

15 WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Florida Senate
16 commemorate the passing of an individual who served his
17 district and the State of Florida so admirably, NOW,
18 THEREFORE,

19
20 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

21
22 That the Florida Senate does pause in its deliberations
23 to pay its respects to the late Douglas Lee "Tim" Jamerson,
24 former State Representative, Commissioner of Education, and
25 Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment Security
26 and that the Florida Senate in session assembled does record
27 this testimonial of esteem and bereavement:

28 IN MEMORIAM

29 DOUGLAS LEE JAMERSON

30 Douglas Lee "Tim" Jamerson was born October 16, 1947,
31 in St. Petersburg, Florida. He grew up in the poor St.

1 Petersburg neighborhoods, attended Bishop Barry High School
2 (now St. Petersburg Catholic), and graduated from St.
3 Petersburg Junior College, the University of South Florida,
4 and the St. Petersburg Police Academy. After his honorable
5 discharge from the United States Air Force, at the rank of
6 Staff Sergeant, he was employed for many years in the Pinellas
7 County school system. Beginning in 1982, Mr. Jamerson served
8 5-1/2 terms in the House of Representatives. Subsequently,
9 Governor Lawton Chiles appointed him state Commissioner of
10 Education, and, in 1995, Governor Chiles made him Secretary of
11 Labor. Mr. Jamerson achieved many marvelous feats in his
12 high-level state positions, including designing and
13 implementing the system that allowed former welfare recipients
14 to become employed, re-engineering the unemployment-tax design
15 system for the state, establishing the state's distance
16 learning project, and securing funds for the Safe School
17 Program. In addition to his many professional achievements, he
18 remained intensely interested in the welfare of his hometown,
19 as evidenced by his personally intervening to defuse racial
20 tensions in St. Petersburg in 1996. During that time, Doug
21 Jamerson walked the streets of his city and calmed angry
22 crowds through his persuasiveness. Although, to the end of his
23 life, Douglas Jamerson spoke of his next anticipated political
24 move; gave public speeches; and, several times a month,
25 visited the poor St. Petersburg neighborhoods where he grew
26 up, he nevertheless bravely withheld news of his illness from
27 virtually everyone who knew him. On April 21, the cancer that
28 he had fought for several years claimed his life at the age of
29 53, leaving as his closest survivors: his wife, Leatha Young
30 Jamerson; his son, Cedric Alexander Jamerson; his mother and
31 stepfather, Neva J. and Rue McGill; his sisters, Terecina Rice

1 and Donna Jamerson; and his brother, Michael Jamerson. Many
2 who served with him praised his accomplishments and mourned
3 his unfulfilled promise, including Representative Frank
4 Peterman, who said: "For me, Doug Jamerson was the
5 quintessential politician and statesman. And he was the
6 ultimate African-American government official from St.
7 Petersburg, and also probably the state of Florida. He
8 represented all that is right in public service." Former St.
9 Petersburg Mayor David Fischer declared: "He's certainly one
10 of the political pioneers of the African-American community. I
11 never heard an unkind statement about him or his work. There
12 was nothing but respect." By these and many other associates
13 and friends, as well as his beloved family, Tim Jamerson will
14 be sorely missed.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
16 signed by the President of the Senate, be transmitted to Mrs.
17 Leatha Jamerson, widow of Douglas Jamerson, as a tangible
18 token of the sentiments expressed herein and a lasting symbol
19 of the respect of the members of the Florida Senate.
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31