

By Representatives Peterman, Joyner, Wilson, Harper, Smith, Cusack, Meadows, Richardson, Siplin, Jennings, Holloway, Bullard, Bendross-Mindingall, Brutus, Fields, Justice, Kendrick, Lee, Heyman, Slosberg, Gannon, Weissman, (Additional Sponsors on Last Printed Page)

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring the memory of Douglas Lee
3 "Tim" Jamerson.
4

5 WHEREAS, remembered for his "great sense of humor, his
6 booming voice for the underprivileged, and his kind heart,"
7 Douglas Lee "Tim" Jamerson left no doubt as to where he stood
8 on an issue, yet so adept was he at concealing the state of
9 his health that many who were closest to him were profoundly
10 shocked when cancer claimed his life on Saturday, April 21,
11 2001, and

12 WHEREAS, Doug Jamerson was a teacher at St. Petersburg
13 High School when he made his successful bid for the
14 Legislature, quickly becoming recognized as a "tireless
15 champion for public education" as he pushed for measures that
16 put more control of schools in local hands, led in
17 establishing school accountability in Florida, and promoted
18 parental involvement in their children's schools, and

19 WHEREAS, known as one of the most prominent black
20 politicians in Florida, smart, passionate, and well-connected,
21 Doug Jamerson served with uncommon distinction as the District
22 55 State Representative for 11 years after his election in
23 1982 until his resignation in 1993 to assume statewide
24 positions, first as Commissioner of Education and, later, as
25 Secretary of Labor, both by appointment of then-Governor
26 Lawton Chiles, and

27 WHEREAS, service to his state kept him in Tallahassee
28 for much of his political career, but in his heart Douglas Lee
29 Jamerson never truly left St. Petersburg, where he was born on
30 October 16, 1947, and remained intensely interested in its
31 welfare, often visiting in the neighborhoods in which he grew

1 up and, when racial violence broke out in the city in 1996, he
2 walked the streets, attempting to cool emotions and restore
3 order, the following year winning a national award for his
4 efforts, and

5 WHEREAS, the first black legislator elected from
6 Pinellas County and referred to as "one of the political
7 pioneers of the African-American community" and as a statesman
8 who "represented all that is right in public service," Douglas
9 Lee "Tim" Jamerson accomplished much in the relatively short
10 span of his public service and has made a lasting impact on
11 the lives of all Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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16 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
17 deliberations to honor the memory of Douglas Lee "Tim"
18 Jamerson and to reflect upon the contributions made by this
19 dedicated public servant.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
21 be presented to Mrs. Leatha Jamerson and to Cedric Jamerson,
22 wife and son of Doug Jamerson, as a tangible token of the
23 esteem in which this body holds the memory of its former
24 colleague.

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