

By Representative Gannon

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution in honor of the late Charles  
3 Spencer Pompey.

4  
5 WHEREAS, on July 24, 2001, the Delray Beach area lost a  
6 valued citizen and friend in the person of longtime educator,  
7 historian, and activist Charles Spencer Pompey, only seven  
8 days short of his eighty-sixth birthday, and

9 WHEREAS, encouraged by his mother's determination that  
10 her five children be properly educated, Charles Pompey became  
11 valedictorian of his high school class at the age of 15 and  
12 graduated summa cum laude in 1939 from Johnson C. Smith  
13 University in Charlotte, North Carolina, at that time a  
14 remarkable achievement for an African American, and

15 WHEREAS, during a career that spanned 41 years, Mr.  
16 Pompey successfully taught social studies, coached athletics,  
17 and served as principal in the public schools of Florida, but  
18 it was through his soft-spoken example that generations of  
19 black children learned the principles of achievement,  
20 equality, and respect and, an issue very dear to his heart,  
21 the importance of voting, and

22 WHEREAS, although totally dedicated to his profession,  
23 Mr. Pompey was vitally interested in every facet of life in  
24 the community, and it was he who fought to desegregate the  
25 area beaches, pressed the city fathers to install street  
26 lights, sidewalks, and paved streets in black neighborhoods,  
27 and pushed for the first organized recreation programs for the  
28 city's African-American children, an effort which resulted in  
29 his having Pompey Park named in his honor, and

30 WHEREAS, never a man to hesitate to define and act on  
31 his convictions, Mr. Pompey was one of three African-American

1 teachers who initiated the first class-action lawsuit in  
2 federal court to eliminate teacher salary disparity between  
3 the races; co-organized and served as the first president of  
4 the Palm Beach County Teachers Association; initiated the  
5 athletic program at Carver High School; and was elected to the  
6 Florida Education Association Board of Directors, NOW,  
7 THEREFORE,

8  
9 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
10 Florida:

11  
12 That the House of Representatives pauses in its  
13 deliberations to honor the late Charles Spencer Pompey, a man  
14 of great stature and superlative accomplishments.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31