

By Representative Richardson

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring the Reverend R.N. Gooden.

WHEREAS, born Raleigh Noble Gooden on a small farm near Milton, Florida, the Reverend R.N. Gooden was the second youngest child of proud parents George and Pollie Gooden, from whom he learned early the importance of religion in his life, especially from his preacher father, and accepted God as his Lord and Savior at a young age, and

WHEREAS, heeding the call to the pulpit by his deep faith in God and the opportunity to end the suffering of black people through the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Gooden graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in religion and from the American Baptist Seminary with a degree in theology and pastored churches in the Pensacola area before arriving in Tallahassee in 1961 as pastor of Saint Mary's Primitive Baptist Church, where he continues to serve today, and

WHEREAS, chosen by God to be a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Gooden has championed the plight of the oppressed in this country, especially African Americans, and has shone a light on the dark and hidden places in which discrimination and oppression existed yesterday and still exist today, and

WHEREAS, as state president of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLU) and president of the Tallahassee Chapter of the organization, Reverend Gooden has led or been involved in many of the major civil rights battles of the era, has followed the corridors that lead down the halls of freedom, and firmly believes that now is the time to lift our

1 nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid  
2 rock of brotherhood, and

3 WHEREAS, despite attempts to suppress the movement and  
4 kill the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., both the  
5 movement and the dream live on through stalwart soldiers like  
6 Reverend Gooden, who picked up the torch and continues  
7 tirelessly in his efforts to speak for those who are  
8 voiceless, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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13 That the House of Representatives pauses in its  
14 deliberations to recognize the Reverend R.N. Gooden for his  
15 accomplishments as a pastor and as a champion of civil and  
16 human rights in Tallahassee and throughout the State of  
17 Florida.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
19 be presented to the Reverend Gooden as a token of sincere  
20 appreciation for his many contributions to the citizens of  
21 Florida.

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