

By Senator Siplin

19-2103-03

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing and honoring the
3 extraordinary life, remarkable work, and
4 invaluable community service of Ray D.
5 McCleese.

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7 WHEREAS, Ray D. McCleese was born in Columbia, North
8 Carolina, spent his formative years in Philadelphia,
9 Pennsylvania, being educated in the public schools of that
10 community, and, upon graduating from high school, embarked on
11 a career in the United States Armed Forces, serving with
12 distinction in both the United States Army and the United
13 States Air Force, and

14 WHEREAS, upon being honorably discharged from the
15 United States Air Force, Mr. McCleese sought and obtained
16 employment with the Florida Department of Corrections,
17 embarking on a career in corrections that endured for the
18 ensuing 29 years and ended with his retirement on September 1,
19 2001, and

20 WHEREAS, in the course of his employment with the
21 Florida Department of Corrections, Mr. McCleese served with
22 distinction, becoming the first African-American to serve as
23 Superintendent of one of Florida's correctional institutions
24 and being the first African-American to serve in that capacity
25 at three of the Department's major corrections facilities, and
26 ending his corrections career in service to the Department as
27 Director of Security and Institutional Management, overseeing
28 operations of the Department's correctional institutions
29 located in the 9-county Central Florida area, and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. McCleese rendered invaluable community
31 service as a six-term President of the Washington Shores

1 Optimist Club, President of Metropolitan Orlando Urban
2 League's Guild and Chair of the League's Executive Board, a
3 member of the Orlando City of Light Leadership Coalition, a
4 member of the Orlando Mayor's Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
5 Commission, a Commissioner and Past-President of the Orlando
6 Utilities Commission, a member of the Board of Directors for
7 the Minority and Women's Business Alliance, and Florida State
8 Coordinator for the NAACP's Prison Project, and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. McCleese received many awards in
10 recognition of his outstanding leadership and invaluable civic
11 service, including the Board of Correctional Education's
12 "Award of Merit," Metropolitan Orlando Urban League's "Willie
13 J. Bruton Award," the University of Central Florida's "Alumni
14 Professional Achievement Award," Florida Council of Crime and
15 Delinquency's "Louie L. Wainwright Award," the National
16 Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice's "Jonathan Jasper
17 Wright Award," the Florida Teaching Profession-Florida
18 Education Association Human and Civil Rights Committee's
19 "Martin Luther King, Jr., Award," and

20 WHEREAS, on March 26, 2003, Ray McCleese passed from
21 this world to an eternal life with his Heavenly Father,
22 leaving behind his wife, Epsie, and his many friends,
23 including all those who joined him in worship at New Covenant
24 Baptist Church, where Mr. McCleese served as a Deacon, NOW,
25 THEREFORE,

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27 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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29 That the Florida Senate recognizes and honors the
30 extraordinary life, remarkable career, and invaluable civic
31 service of Ray D. McCleese, and expresses its heartfelt

1 | condolences to his family on the occasion of his recent
2 | passing.
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