



HR 9101

2003

House Resolution

A resolution honoring Jesse J. McCrary, Jr.

WHEREAS, born in Blitchton, Florida, the son of a Baptist preacher, Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., lived his life according to the principles he was taught from early childhood, and

WHEREAS, Jesse McCrary became active in America's civil rights struggle in 1956, organizing sit-ins in Tallahassee while he was a political science major at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, the institution to which he returned after serving an honorable stint in the United States Army and from which he earned a law degree in 1965, and

WHEREAS, Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., was the first African American to serve Florida as Assistant Attorney General; the first African American to sit as a judge on the Industrial Relations Commission for the state; and, as Secretary of State under Governor Reubin Askew, the first African American since Reconstruction to hold a cabinet position in Florida, and

WHEREAS, a preeminent authority on constitutional law, Jesse McCrary has lectured extensively at prestigious law schools throughout the country, has won 10 landmark cases presented before the Florida Supreme Court, and, as the first African American to plead on behalf of a southern state before the United States Supreme Court, successfully argued *Williams v. State of Florida*, a case that established the right to a jury of less than 12 persons, and

WHEREAS, for more than 40 years, Jesse McCrary has served his community, his state, and his nation with remarkable fervor and distinction as an attorney, a civil rights and community



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30 activist, a motivational speaker, a mentor, and a treasured
31 friend, NOW, THEREFORE,
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33 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
34 Florida:

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36 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
37 deliberations to pay homage to Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., a living
38 legend who has distinguished himself in his profession and given
39 of himself in the service of mankind.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
41 presented to Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., as a tangible token of the
42 sentiments expressed herein.
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