

By Senator Hill

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing Dr. Oswald Bronson upon his retirement as President of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach.

WHEREAS, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., earned his Bachelor's degree from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida; his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary; and his Ph.D from Northwestern University in Chicago, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronson served as Pastor at a local United Methodist Church in Chicago, taught at Interdenominational Theological Center for 4 years and served as its President for 7 years, and has provided dedicated leadership to the Florida and Georgia Conferences of the United Methodist Church for 16 years, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronson assumed the presidency of Bethune-Cookman College in 1975, becoming its fourth president, and has served in that position for 29 years, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bronson has led Bethune-Cookman College in doubling its enrollment, currently at 2,700, and the college's endowment has grown from \$1.2 million to \$25 million under his leadership, and

WHEREAS, his leadership has also fostered various building projects, such as the Mary McLeod Bethune Performing Arts Center and the new wing of the Robinson Music Building, and

WHEREAS, following God's wisdom and working diligently, Dr. Bronson has also guided Bethune-Cookman to becoming entirely accredited until the year 2010, and

1 WHEREAS, throughout his Presidency at Bethune-Cookman
2 College, Dr. Bronson has struggled energetically and
3 successfully with the financial and other obstacles that small
4 Historically Black Colleges and Universities have faced, and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Bronson's skillful leadership has been
6 widely recognized and has led to his recent appointment to the
7 Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent
8 Colleges and Universities, where his knowledge and experience
9 will be of great use to many other educational institutions,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, while Dr. Bronson will remain actively
12 involved in many organizations related to higher education, he
13 has decided to take a well-earned retirement from the
14 presidency of Bethune-Cookman College, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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18 That Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., is recognized for his
19 outstanding career accomplishments on behalf of higher
20 education and for his exemplary leadership and success as
21 President of Bethune-Cookman College for nearly three decades.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
23 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr.
24 Oswald P. Bronson, Sr., as an expression of the esteem of the
25 Florida Senate.

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