

By Senator Miller

18-648-06

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the life and work of
Reverend A. Leon Lowry.

WHEREAS, Reverend A. Leon Lowry was one of Tampa's most
influential civil rights activists and leaders and the first
African-American elected to the Hillsborough County School
Board, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lowry's roots in the civil rights
movement went back as far as his days of teaching theology at
Morehouse College in the 1940s, where his students included
Martin Luther King, Jr., and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s and 1960s, Rev. Lowry was crucial
to the civil rights movement in Tampa, organizing sit-ins at
segregated lunch counters and organizing a network to bail out
protesters who were arrested, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lowry also helped found Tampa's first
biracial bank and worked with GTE president Fred Learey to
devise a plan to break down racial barriers at the telephone
company, and

WHEREAS, with his ability to reach out to people of all
races, ages, and classes, Rev. Lowry played a critical role in
his 16 years on the Hillsborough County School Board,
providing the leadership necessary to move through the
processes of school integration, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lowry was awarded The Florida Bar
Foundation's Medal of Honor in 1987 for his work in easing
racial tensions and promoting social justice in Tampa, and

WHEREAS, spending the last 8 years of his life
counseling inmates at Orient Road, Rev. Lowry continued to

1 inspire everyone he came into contact with until his death on
2 Saturday, August 20, 2005, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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6 That the Senate recognizes and honors the significant
7 and beneficial work accomplished by the Reverend A. Leon Lowry
8 in the civil rights struggle in Tampa and the State of
9 Florida.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
11 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
12 surviving members of Rev. Lowry's family - his wife, Shirley
13 Lowry, and their sons and stepsons.

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