

HR 9065

2006

House Resolution

A resolution honoring the late Reverend Alfonso Leon Lowry, Sr.

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2005, the homeless, the helpless, and the hopeless lost an advocate, a mentor, and a friend, and the nation lost an icon of the civil rights movement, when the Reverend Alfonso Leon Lowry, Sr., succumbed to congestive heart failure at the age of 92, and

WHEREAS, born in Savannah, raised in New York City, and educated at Morehouse College in Atlanta, where his association with the civil rights movement began in the 1940's and where he once taught theology to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Lowry moved to Tampa in 1956 to become pastor of Beulah Baptist Institutional Church until his retirement in 1995, and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's, the Reverend Lowry proved himself a leader in the cause of equality, organizing students from Booker T. Washington Junior High School and Blake and Middleton High Schools for peaceful protests at the city's segregated department stores, lunch counters, beaches, and other public facilities, insisting always that everything be done with dignity and pride, and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Lowry helped found Tampa's first biracial bank; became president of Florida's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in which role he conferred with President Kennedy at the White House; was the first African American elected to the Hillsborough County School Board, on which he served for 16 years; was awarded The Florida

HR 9065

2006

29 | Bar's medal of honor for easing racial tensions and promoting
30 | social justice; and was presented with the Liberty Bell Award by
31 | the Hillsborough County Bar Association in 1980, and

32 | WHEREAS, acclaimed and honored by the great, loved and
33 | revered by the humble, the Reverend Lowry was said to have
34 | expressed the hope that he be remembered only for "helping make
35 | the world a better place than it was when he entered it," NOW,
36 | THEREFORE,

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38 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
39 | Florida:

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41 | That the Members of the House of Representatives affirm
42 | that the hope of the late Reverend Alfonso Leon Lowry, Sr., has
43 | been realized many times over and express their sincere
44 | gratitude and deep admiration for his life as a major force for
45 | progressive change against the nation's system of racial
46 | segregation.

47 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
48 | presented to Mrs. Shirley Lowry, widow of the late Reverend
49 | Lowry, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.