

By Senator Hill

1-02540-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the life and preserving the legacy of Dr. Howard W. Thurman.

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard W. Thurman, an educator, author, ordained minister and preacher, philosopher, theologian, and civil rights leader, was one of the most important people in American history, and

WHEREAS, Howard Thurman, who was born in 1900 in Daytona Beach, Florida, and raised by his grandmother, a former slave, developed a deep commitment to breaking through the walls that separate mankind on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin, and

WHEREAS, as a professor and dean of the chapels at Howard University and Boston University, Howard Thurman created a climate of action-oriented nonviolence, which was later inherited by the civil rights movement, and

WHEREAS, as a cofounder of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, California, Howard Thurman stimulated change in the racial and cultural policies of American churches, and

WHEREAS, as a theologian and cultural ambassador, Howard Thurman met with world figures, including Mahatma Gandhi, who deepened Thurman's faith in the power of nonviolent resistance to segregation, and

WHEREAS, as an author of 20 books of ethical and cultural criticism, Howard Thurman deeply influenced prominent leaders of the civil rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and

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30 WHEREAS, subsequent to Howard Thurman's death in 1981, the
31 Howard Thurman Program was established at Stetson University in
32 partnership with New Birth Corporation, an organization dedicated
33 to fostering a cultural renaissance in the African-American
34 community headed by Reverend Jefferson P. Rogers, and

35 WHEREAS, under the directorship of Reverend Rogers, the
36 Howard Thurman Program and its Howard Thurman Lecture Series
37 extend the legacy of the Daytona Beach native, Howard Thurman,
38 and integrate the work of scholars with community leaders to find
39 solutions to social, religious, and ethnic problems, NOW,
40 THEREFORE,

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

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44 That the life of Dr. Howard W. Thurman is hereby honored and
45 his legacy is preserved.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
47 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Reverend
48 Jefferson P. Rogers, Director of the Howard Thurman Program at
49 Stetson University, as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
50 Florida Senate.