

HR 9019

2008

1 House Resolution

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

4
5 WHEREAS, Dr. Howard W. Thurman, an educator, author,
6 ordained minister and preacher, philosopher, theologian, and
7 civil rights leader, was one of the most important people in
8 American history, and

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, as an author of 20 books of ethical and cultural
27 criticism, Howard Thurman deeply influenced prominent leaders of

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28 | the civil rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King,
29 | Jr., and

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
33 | dedicated to fostering a cultural renaissance in the African-
34 | American 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
39 | find solutions to social, religious, and ethnic problems, NOW,
40 | THEREFORE,

41 |
42 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
43 | Florida:

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

47 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
48 | presented to Reverend Jefferson P. Rogers, Director of the
49 | Howard Thurman Program at Stetson University.