

HR 9053

2009

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution commending Dr. Walter L. Smith for his
3 accomplishments in the field of education.

4
5 WHEREAS, each year, the National Education Association's
6 Applegate-Dorros Peace and International Understanding Award is
7 presented to an individual whose activities in education
8 contribute to international understanding and cooperation among
9 people and nations of the world, and

10 WHEREAS, this year's recipient of the award, Dr. Walter L.
11 Smith, has spent decades as a champion for education both at
12 home and abroad, and

13 WHEREAS, with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree
14 from Florida A & M University, Dr. Smith became a leader in
15 education, serving as Chairman of the Science Department at
16 Hillsborough County's Marshall High School, bringing about the
17 involvement of the first Black students in the Kennedy Space
18 Center programs, and assisting the United States Office of
19 Education in developing school district desegregation plans and
20 graduate education training centers for Black administrators,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, after receiving his Ph.D. in Higher Education
23 Organization and Management from Florida State University, Dr.
24 Smith became President of Roxbury Community College in Boston,
25 Massachusetts, and in 1977 became the seventh President of
26 Florida A & M University and served until 1985, and

27 WHEREAS, under Dr. Smith's presidency at Florida A & M
28 University, new colleges and graduate education programs were

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29 established, the Presidential Scholars Program was created to
30 recruit some of the best and brightest students, student
31 services were improved, and major construction projects were
32 implemented in academic and athletic areas, and

33 WHEREAS, after leaving the presidency, Dr. Smith was
34 selected as a Senior Fulbright Scholar and, through his research
35 at the University of Malawi in Central Africa, brought about
36 innovation in graduate education at the university, and

37 WHEREAS, as an outgrowth of his work in Malawi, Dr. Smith
38 established an educational "think tank" at Florida A & M
39 University, called "Peoples and Places Around the World," and

40 WHEREAS, in 1987, Dr. Smith began providing educational
41 orientation to South African educators in preparation for the
42 transition from apartheid to democracy and led efforts in
43 developing a master plan for the implementation of community
44 colleges in the Republic of South Africa, NOW, THEREFORE,

45
46 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
47 Florida:

48
49 That Dr. Walter L. Smith is commended for his
50 accomplishments in the field of education and congratulated as
51 the recipient of the National Education Association's 2009
52 Applegate-Dorros Peace and International Understanding Award.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
54 presented to Dr. Walter L. Smith as a tangible token of the
55 sentiments expressed herein.