

By Senator Hill

1-04288A-10

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the outstanding contribution
3 of Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., to education and to quality
4 of life of the people of Duval County.

5
6 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., was the first African
7 American elected to a school board in this state and served for
8 23 years as a member, and 4 years as chairman, of the school
9 board in Duval County, and

10 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., served for 27 years on the
11 Board of Trustees of then-Bethune-Cookman College, 11 of those
12 years as chairman, and has served for 26 years on the Board of
13 Trustees of Hampton University, his alma mater, and

14 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., has served as a member of
15 the Community Development Council of First Union National Bank,
16 the DuPont Community Building Fund Advisory Committee, and the
17 Better Jacksonville Plan Finance Administration Committee, and
18 served as chairperson of the Council of Board Chairs of the
19 Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges,
20 which represents more than 32,000 members at more than 1,700
21 colleges and universities, and

22 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., is a life member of the
23 Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Founding Sire Archon of Gamma
24 Beta Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, and

25 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., has received more than 100
26 awards and recognitions for his support of humanitarian causes
27 and for his community service, including the Distinguished
28 Leadership Award from the United Negro College Fund and the
29 Silver Bell Award for Significant Contributions to Education by

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30 the Duval County Classroom Teacher Association, and

31 WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University has recognized his
32 extraordinary service to the community by naming the newly
33 constructed business building in his honor, as has Hampton
34 University, which designated the Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., Men's
35 Dormitory, and

36 WHEREAS, Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., continues to serve as
37 president of Wendell Holmes Funeral Directors, Inc., in
38 Jacksonville, where he and his wife, Jacquelyne, continue to
39 give back to the community through their sponsorship of the
40 NAACP ACT-SO student competition, and

41 WHEREAS, of all his accomplishments, Wendell P. Holmes,
42 Jr., says that his proudest are his two children, Wendell P.
43 Holmes, III, and Carolyn Holmes Nesmith, as well as his four
44 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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48 That the Senate recognizes the outstanding contributions of
49 Wendell P. Holmes, Jr., to education and to the quality of life
50 of the people of Duval County.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
52 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Wendell P.
53 Holmes, Jr., as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
54 Florida Senate.