

By Senator Hill

1-01676-11

20111076

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the lifetime achievement of educator Alvin George White, Ed.D., and celebrating his ongoing contribution to public education in this state.

WHEREAS, Alvin George White was born in Jacksonville, the oldest of four children born to George and Victoria White, and

WHEREAS, Alvin George White attended St. Pius V Catholic School where, at 4 years of age, he was placed in the first grade, and

WHEREAS, Alvin George White enrolled in the local public school system, graduating from Stanton High School, and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A&M University, a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, and a Doctor of Education degree from NOVA Southeastern University, and

WHEREAS, Alvin George White began his teaching career in Okeechobee but, after his first year in the classroom, was drafted into the United States Navy, where he served as a Personnelman Second Class, and played basketball and baseball for the United States Naval Sixth Fleet, and

WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1959, Alvin George White returned to the classroom, teaching sixth grade at Oakland Elementary School and coaching at Matthew W. Gilbert Junior-Senior High School in Duval County, and later, serving as head football coach and athletic director at two area high schools, and

WHEREAS, during the turbulent early years of desegregation

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30 of the public schools in Duval County, Alvin George White became
31 the first black vice principal of the predominately white Robert
32 E. Lee High School and the first black principal of the
33 predominately white Jean Ribault Senior High School, and

34 WHEREAS, Alvin George White went on to become one of the
35 first black area assistant superintendents and in 1997, retired
36 from the Duval County Public Schools as Chief Operating Officer,
37 responsible for 12,000 employees and more than 126,000 students,
38 and

39 WHEREAS, Alvin George White's retirement was short-lived,
40 as he was appointed director of the College of Education at
41 Jacksonville University, where he helped prepare future school
42 principals and administrators, and

43 WHEREAS, in 2001, Alvin George White was named coordinator
44 of Nova Southeastern University's graduate programs in
45 Jacksonville and served as a consultant to the Duval County
46 Public Schools, working with the Southern Association of
47 Colleges and Schools to provide professional consultant services
48 as the district pursued accreditation status, and

49 WHEREAS, in 2008, Alvin George White once again left
50 retirement, returning to the Duval County Public School System
51 as chief of staff and partnerships, and

52 WHEREAS, Alvin George White is active in community service,
53 serving in a leadership capacity on NAACP committees and on the
54 board of the James Weldon Johnson Branch YMCA, and is the
55 recipient of more than 100 honors and awards, and

56 WHEREAS, Alvin George White was instrumental in the
57 founding of the youth choir at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church,
58 has served as senior warden for St. Phillip's and St. Gabriel's

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59 Episcopal churches, and is a licensed lay reader and chalice
60 bearer for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida, and

61 WHEREAS, Alvin George White is a published author, recently
62 completing his first book, *Education is Not a Four-Letter Word*,
63 and

64 WHEREAS, Alvin George White is married to the former Brenda
65 Lundy and is the father of two children, Marcel and Altoria,
66 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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70 That Alvin George White, Ed.D., is recognized for his
71 lifetime achievements as an educator and for his ongoing
72 contributions to public education in this state.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
74 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Alvin George
75 White, Ed.D., as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
76 Florida Senate.