

By Senator Smith

29-03629A-12

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the life of Sara Louise Jones
Pettis.

WHEREAS, Sara Louise Jones was born and raised in Miami,
where she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in
1938, and

WHEREAS, Sara Louise Jones went on to attend Florida Normal
and Industrial Institute in St. Augustine, graduating in 1940,
and several months later met her future husband Cyrus Pettis,
and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Sara and Cyrus relocated to Ft.
Lauderdale, where they bought a home and began a family, which
grew to include seven children, fourteen grandchildren, and four
great-grandchildren, and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the 25 Pettises went to the White House
to be recognized by then-First Lady Nancy Reagan as a Great
American Family, one of only nine families so honored for their
exemplary lives and civic service, including creating jobs for
black youth and developing programs for the elderly, and

WHEREAS, under Sara Louise Jones Pettis' guiding hand, all
seven of their children went to college, with some earning
graduate degrees, and

WHEREAS, Sara Louise Jones Pettis was a long-time member of
Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for
more than 20 years, was active in the Parent Teacher
Association, which presented her with a National Lifetime
Membership Award, and served as a poll worker for more than 30
years, and

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30 WHEREAS, Sara Louise Jones Pettis was employed for 21 years
31 by the Broward County School Board as a teacher's assistant and,
32 upon her retirement in 1988, her sons established a scholarship
33 in her name at Dillard High School to benefit an outstanding
34 college-bound senior, and

35 WHEREAS, on February 15, 2011, Sara Louise Jones Pettis
36 died at age 90 from natural causes at her Ft. Lauderdale home,
37 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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41 That the members of the Senate remember the life of Sarah
42 Louise Jones Pettis and the legacy she leaves behind as a
43 devoted and adoring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother
44 and as a champion of quality education.