

By Senators Lee and Joyner

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Senate Resolution

A resolution remembering the life of Tampa's own, the Honorable James "Jim" Albaugh Lenfestey.

WHEREAS, Jim Lenfestey was a second-generation Tampa native, born into one of Tampa's pioneer families, and attended Gorrie Elementary, Wilson Junior High, and Plant High School, and

WHEREAS, Jim Lenfestey received his B.A. degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and his J.D. degree from the University of Florida College of Law, where he became a member of Phi Delta Phi, an international legal honorary society, and

WHEREAS, after 16 years of general law practice in Tampa in the firm he established, Jim Lenfestey was elected to the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in 1966 following a hotly contested three-way race and served for 24 years on the bench before "retiring" to pursue more than a decade of active service as a mediator, and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a circuit judge, Jim Lenfestey was elected chairman of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges and served two terms as chief judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit, receiving the Robert W. Patton Outstanding Jurist Award from the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, and

WHEREAS, after 10 years on the bench, Jim Lenfestey was pleased to receive the highest approval rating of any judge in a Hillsborough County Bar Association lawyer opinion survey, and

WHEREAS, for many years, Jim Lenfestey's favorite pastime

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30 was teaching college classes in business and constitutional law  
31 at the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa,  
32 Hillsborough Community College, and other local campuses, and

33 WHEREAS, Jim Lenfestey was a veteran of World War II and  
34 attained the rank of colonel in the United States Army Reserve,  
35 and served as a member of the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield  
36 Retiree Council, and

37 WHEREAS, Jim Lenfestey led and was active in a variety of  
38 legal, professional, civic, and charitable organizations and  
39 endeavors, and he and his beloved wife of 54 years, Laurel White  
40 Norden Lenfestey, who predeceased him, were faithful members of  
41 First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon and elder  
42 and, for decades, taught an adult Sunday School class, and

43 WHEREAS, Jim Lenfestey will long be remembered for his  
44 wisdom, wit, work ethic, courtesy, and interest in others, many  
45 of whom he served as a mentor to, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

48  
49 That we pause to remember the life of the Honorable James  
50 "Jim" Albaugh Lenfestey, recognize his indelible mark on the  
51 Hillsborough County legal community, and extend our deepest  
52 sympathy to his family and friends.