

By Senator Joyner

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution remembering the life and legacy of the
3 Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., former Florida
4 Supreme Court Chief Justice, upon his death.

5
6 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., son of the
7 late Leander J. and Margaret Shaw, was born September 6, 1930,
8 in Salem, Virginia, received a bachelor's degree from West
9 Virginia State College, and proudly served his country as an
10 artillery officer in the Korean War, and

11 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., earned a
12 Juris Doctorate from Howard University and began his law career
13 as an assistant professor of law at Florida A&M University, and

14 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., was
15 admitted to The Florida Bar in 1960 as one of 25 black attorneys
16 practicing in the state at that time, and

17 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., worked in
18 private practice in Jacksonville and served as an assistant
19 public defender and, later, as a state attorney, where he led
20 the Capital Crimes Division and was an adviser to the grand
21 jury, and

22 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., was a
23 loving and patient father to Sherri Shaw Luke, Dione King, Dawn
24 Sims, Sean Shaw, and the late Leander Jerry Shaw, III, and a
25 loyal relative and friend to countless others, and

26 WHEREAS, in 1974, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr.,
27 was appointed by then-Governor Reubin Askew to the Florida
28 Industrial Relations Commission, and, in 1979, then-Governor Bob
29 Graham named him to the First District Court of Appeal, and

30 WHEREAS, in 1983, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr.,
31 was appointed by then-Governor Bob Graham to the Florida Supreme
32 Court, making Justice Shaw the second black member of the high

19-01847-16

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33 court and later, its first black Chief Justice, a position he
34 held from 1990 to 1992, and

35 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., a dedicated
36 jurist and community leader, is credited with being a pivotal
37 force in restoring the public's faith in the integrity of the
38 Florida Supreme Court following scandals in the 1970s, and

39 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., will be
40 remembered as an outspoken critic of the state's use of the
41 electric chair as a means of execution for capital crimes, and

42 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., who died
43 December 14, 2015, at the age of 85, will long be remembered as
44 a trailblazer in the practice of law and as a calm, insightful
45 jurist and teacher who leaves an enduring legacy of dedication
46 to public service, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 That the members of the Senate extend their heartfelt
51 sympathy to his family upon the death of former Florida Supreme
52 Court Chief Justice Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
54 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the family of
55 former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Leander Jerry Shaw,
56 Jr., as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
57 Senate.