

HR 9009

2016

House Resolution

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

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

WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., earned a Juris Doctorate from Howard University and began his law career as an assistant professor of law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and

WHEREAS, in 1960, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., was admitted to The Florida Bar, becoming one of only 25 black attorneys practicing at that time, and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., worked in private practice in Jacksonville, provided valuable public service as an assistant public defender and later as head of the Capital Crimes Division of the state attorney's office, and served as adviser to the grand jury, and

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

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27 WHEREAS, in 1983, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr.,
28 was appointed by then-Governor Bob Graham to the Florida Supreme
29 Court as the second black member of the high court, and in 1990,
30 he became its first black Chief Justice, and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., was a
39 loving and patient father to Sherri Shaw Luke, Dione King, Dawn
40 Sims, Sean Shaw, and the late Leander Jerry Shaw, III, and a
41 loyal relative and friend to countless others, 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 House of Representatives of the State of
49 Florida:

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51 That heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of the
52 Honorable Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., upon his death and that he is

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53 | recognized and commended for his lifetime achievements in the
54 | practice of law.

55 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
56 | presented to the family of former Florida Supreme Court Chief
57 | Justice Leander Jerry Shaw, Jr., as a tangible token of the
58 | sentiments expressed herein.