

By Senator Farmer

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing September 17, 2017, as  
"Mickey Smiley Day at the Capitol" in remembrance of  
his outstanding contributions to legal education.

WHEREAS, William McKinley "Mickey" Smiley was born on  
September 28, 1935, and

WHEREAS, Mickey Smiley orchestrated the first successful  
student petition drive to desegregate a university in the South,  
and

WHEREAS, Mickey Smiley played a pivotal role in ending  
racial segregation at American colleges and universities by  
leading efforts to admit African-American students to Duke  
University, and

WHEREAS, Mickey Smiley won a hard-fought battle with  
melanoma and sarcoma and, in order to provide medical coverage  
and college educations for his children, gave up his career as a  
trial lawyer to become a professor of international law and  
medical jurisprudence at Stetson University, and

WHEREAS, upon his hiring at Stetson University College of  
Law in 1969, Mickey Smiley made a motion to admit the first  
African-American student at the college, and, in 1970, he  
founded the Stetson Society of Trial Advocacy, and

WHEREAS, as the chair of the Admissions Committee at  
Stetson Law School, Mickey Smiley saw Stetson become one of the  
first law schools in the United States to admit more women than  
men, and

WHEREAS, Mickey Smiley coached one of the first all-female  
teams to reach the national finals of the American Bar

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30 Association's negotiating skills competition, and

31 WHEREAS, due largely to the influence of Mickey Smiley,  
32 Stetson University College of Law has been ranked by *U.S. News &*  
33 *World Report* as the top law school in the nation for trial  
34 advocacy, and

35 WHEREAS, on his passing on December 5, 2016, Mickey Smiley  
36 left behind his two daughters and five grandchildren and a host  
37 of friends and former students and colleagues, NOW, THEREFORE,  
38

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

40  
41 That September 17, 2017, is recognized as "Mickey Smiley  
42 Day at the Capitol" in remembrance of his outstanding  
43 contributions to legal education over the course of his career.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
45 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to his daughters as  
46 a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.