

HR 8057

2018

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution recognizing the third Saturday in  
3 December 2018 as "Harry Tyson Moore and Harriette Vyda  
4 Simms Moore Day" in Florida.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Harry Tyson Moore, born on November 18, 1905, and  
7 his wife, Harriette Vyda Simms Moore born on June 19, 1902, were  
8 both educators and civil rights activists, and

9 WHEREAS, in 1934, Harry Tyson Moore established the first  
10 Brevard County branch of the National Association for the  
11 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became its president,  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the couple traveled throughout the state  
14 organizing branches of the NAACP, and in 1941, Harry Tyson Moore  
15 organized and became president of the NAACP Florida State  
16 Conference, and

17 WHEREAS, in a quest for equal rights, Harry Tyson Moore  
18 investigated lynchings and police brutality, fought against laws  
19 obstructing people of color who sought to participate in our  
20 democracy by voting, and, in 1945, organized the Progressive  
21 Voters' League, and

22 WHEREAS, during this time, the Moores succeeded in  
23 increasing the registration of black voters in Florida to 31  
24 percent of those eligible to vote, markedly higher than in any  
25 other southern state, and

HR 8057

2018

26 WHEREAS, in July 1949, after four young black men were  
27 falsely accused of raping a white woman in Groveland, Florida, a  
28 white mob went on a rampage through Groveland's black  
29 neighborhood, and the National Guard had to be called out to  
30 restore order, and

31 WHEREAS, after uncovering evidence that the "Groveland  
32 Four" had been brutally beaten, Harry Tyson Moore publicly  
33 accused notorious Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall of  
34 orchestrating the beatings, and

35 WHEREAS, on November 6, 1951, while Sheriff McCall was  
36 transporting two of the defendants, Walter Irvin and Sammy  
37 Shepherd, back to Lake County for a retrial hearing, he shot  
38 them, killing Shepherd and critically wounding Irvin, and

39 WHEREAS, Harry Tyson Moore organized a campaign against  
40 what he saw as the wrongful convictions of the three surviving  
41 men and worked with attorney Thurgood Marshall to successfully  
42 appeal their convictions before the United States Supreme Court,  
43 and

44 WHEREAS, on Christmas night 1951, the Moores' home in Mims,  
45 Florida, was bombed, and Harry Tyson Moore died en route to a  
46 hospital in Sanford, while Harriette Vyda Simms Moore clung to  
47 life until after her husband's funeral, and she died January 3,  
48 1952, and

49 WHEREAS, the protests over the Moores' deaths caused a  
50 nationwide reaction, with dozens of rallies and memorial

HR 8057

2018

51 meetings around the country, and President Truman and Florida  
52 Governor Fuller Warren were inundated with telegrams and protest  
53 letters, and

54 WHEREAS, Harry Tyson Moore and Harriette Vyda Simms Moore  
55 were the first and only husband-and-wife civil rights activists  
56 to be murdered during the civil rights movement, and

57 WHEREAS, Harry Tyson Moore and Harriette Vyda Simms Moore  
58 were inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame and  
59 their bravery, sacrifice, and achievements are recognized in the  
60 Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and  
61 Culture, and

62 WHEREAS, the legacy of Harry Tyson Moore and Harriette Vyda  
63 Simms Moore is honored at Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore  
64 Memorial Park, located on their homesite in Mims, Florida,  
65 through the implementation of community outreach programs and  
66 educational exhibits located inside the museum dedicated to the  
67 couple and their sacrifice, NOW, THEREFORE,

68

69 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
70 Florida:

71

72 That the third Saturday in December 2018 is recognized as  
73 "Harry Tyson Moore and Harriette Vyda Simms Moore Day" in  
74 Florida.