

HR 8071

2020

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Garth C. Reeves, Sr.

3
4 WHEREAS, Garth Coleridge Reeves, born in Nassau, Bahamas,
5 on February 12, 1919, emigrated with his family to the United
6 States when he was four months old and grew up in a segregated
7 Miami, and8 WHEREAS, Garth Reeves' father, Henry E. Sigismund Reeves,
9 founded and published The Miami Times and Garth held every job
10 at one time or another at his father's paper, beginning as a
11 child when he sorted type and delivered newspapers, and12 WHEREAS, Garth Reeves graduated from Florida Agricultural
13 and Mechanical University in 1940 and returned to work at the
14 newspaper, and15 WHEREAS, after he was drafted by the United States Army in
16 1942 to serve his country during World War II, Garth Reeves was
17 profoundly affected by his experience in a segregated military
18 and decided to embrace the cause of civil rights by championing
19 desegregation in civilian life, and20 WHEREAS, The Miami Times and the Reeves family were active
21 in the civil rights struggles of the era, working to desegregate
22 public beaches, parks, and other facilities in the Miami area,
23 and24 WHEREAS, Garth Reeves inherited The Miami Times when his
25 father died in 1970, and

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26 WHEREAS, at the height of Reeves' leadership, The Miami
27 Times earned the name "The Voice of Miami's Black Community" and
28 Reeves was viewed as an uncompromising crusader who smashed
29 racial barriers in some of the most prominent organizations in
30 Miami and the nation, and

31 WHEREAS, in addition to his newspaper, Garth Reeves was
32 active his entire life in organizations such as the Boy Scouts
33 of America and was the first African American to serve on the
34 boards of Miami Dade College, Barry University, the Greater
35 Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Dade County,
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Garth Reeves was a life member of the National
38 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sigma Pi Phi
39 Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a founding
40 member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Miami,
41 Florida and was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from the
42 University of Miami, Barry University, and Florida Memorial
43 University, and

44 WHEREAS, Garth Reeves passed away on November 25, 2019, at
45 the age of 100, 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 Garth C. Reeves, Sr., is honored for his many
52 contributions to journalism, civil rights, and the residents of
53 Miami and the state of Florida

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
55 presented to the Reeves family as a tangible token of the
56 sentiments expressed herein.