

By Representative Dennis

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House Resolution

A resolution in honor of Emma Smith Watkins.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Emma Smith Watkins has been one of Jacksonville's most well-known, highly energetic, and talented senior citizens of this decade, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watkins was born December 13, 1913, in Tallahassee, Florida, the only daughter of Elex and Lucinda Smith, and had two brothers, Robert Smith and the late Edward Smith, and

WHEREAS, she married Henry Watkins in 1929, who died in 1937, and had one daughter, now Elder L. M. Watkins McClain, pastor of Emmanuel's Temple of Deliverance in Philadelphia, and

WHEREAS, she was baptized in the New Bethel Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, and upon moving to Jacksonville in 1933, joined the Saint Matthew Baptist Church where she is still an active member having served in several capacities, and

WHEREAS, she re-enrolled in school as a widowed mother at the Florida Junior College of Jacksonville and completed in 1973 the Adult Education Academic Program and, later, at age 61, a nursing assistant certified program and, at age 67, an upholstery course, and

WHEREAS, she takes special and personal pride in her accomplishments while employed as a company representative by Avon, Inc., from 1951 to 1983, in part because the first black managers were employed at Avon due to her efforts, and

WHEREAS, she is affiliated with many civic, social, political, and religious organizations of Jacksonville, and has a vast number of well-wishers and admirers due to her

1 friendly and engaging personality, her active pursuits of her  
2 hobbies of sewing and gardening, and her countless  
3 contributions to her community, city, and state, NOW,  
4 THEREFORE,

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6 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
7 Florida:

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9           That the House of Representatives commends Emma Smith  
10 Watkins for her remarkable achievements as a senior citizen,  
11 and for her distinguished life of service to her family, her  
12 church, and her community, city, and state.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution  
14 be presented to Emma Smith Watkins as a tangible token of the  
15 sentiments expressed herein.

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