

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1009

TITLE: Resolution Honoring the Life of Stephan Mickle

AUTHOR(S): Senator Faith Allen, Senator Noah Fineberg

SPONSORS: Majority Party Leader Blake Robinson

WHEREAS, Stephan Mickle was a pioneer for the African American community; and,

WHEREAS, He was the first African-American student to earn an undergraduate degree at the University of Florida and the second to earn a law degree from UF. Stephan Mickle was the first African-American to receive the distinguished alumna award in 1999[1]; and,

WHEREAS, He was among the first seven African-American students to join the University of Florida community in 1962[1]; and,

WHEREAS, Stephan Mickle was the first African-American to establish a law practice in the Gainesville community in 1972. He was the first African-American Alachua County judge and the first circuit court judge on the Eighth Judicial Circuit[2]; and,

WHEREAS, Stephan Mickle was the first African-American federal judge to be a part of the First District Court of Appeal and later became the first African-American to serve as a federal judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Florida[1]; and,

WHEREAS, He served as an adjunct professor for the University of Florida for 38 years and a portrait hangs in the Levin College of Law honoring his “grace, nobility, and dedication” to the college [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Stephan Mickle lost his battle with cancer on January 26th, 2021 at the age of 76 after living a distinguished life of public service and dedicating his time to the betterment community” [3]; then,

WHEREAS, Former State Senator and local state attorney, Rod Smith remembers Mickle as the best person he has ever known. He is quoted saying, “For all of the things that Stephan went through, he never lost his sense of grace and humility. In the courtroom the bailiffs loved him. The law clerks loved him.” [3]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Stephan Mickle, as he forged a new path for the African-American community in Gainesville, North Central Florida, and across the United States;

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and honors the life of Stephan Mickle and his years of public service to the North Central Florida area, as well as his dedication to educational excellence at the University of Florida;

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of forging lives with the same principles of grace, dedication, restillance, justice, and determination that Stephan Mickle kept in mind as he lived out his daily life. He serves as an example of servant leadership to us all.

[1]<https://news.ufl.edu/2021/01/remembering-stephan-mickle/>

[2] https://www.law.ufl.edu/_pdf/academics/centers/csrrr/MickleProgramDraft03-17-08.pdf

[3]<https://www.wcjb.com/2021/01/26/historic-north-central-florida-judge-stephan-mickle-dead-at-7>

[4]<https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/01/28/first-black-man-graduate-university-florida-groundbreaking-judge-stephan-mickle-dies/4291605001/>

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Associate Vice President & Dean of Students Heather White, UF Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane, and Vice President for Student Affairs D'Andra Mull