

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1020

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating the life of Justice Joseph Woodrow Hatchett

AUTHORS: Senate President Franco Luis, Senator Olivia Green, Senator John Hazzard

SPONSORS: Student Body Treasurer Giovanna Mompremier, Students Taking Action Against Racism Chairwoman Hannah Thomas, Judiciary Chairman Noah Fineberg, Rules & Ethics Chairwoman Annabelle Groux, Information & Communication Chairwoman Shannon Locascio, Majority Party Leader Jason Scheuer

WHEREAS, Justice Joseph Woodrow Hatchett was the first African American in the South to serve on a state Supreme Court since Jonathan Jasper Wright and the first African American to serve on the Florida State Supreme Court [3]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1954, Hatchett graduated from Florida A&M University and later attended Howard University of Law, where he graduated in 1959 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1966, Hatchett was appointed the United States attorney for the Middle District of Florida and later, in 1967, was designated the first assistant United States attorney [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1971, Hatchett was appointed the United States magistrate for the Middle District of Florida [4]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1975, Hatchett was appointed to the Florida State Supreme Court by Governor Reubin Askew [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1976, Hatchett was reelected to the Florida State Supreme Court, being the first black candidate to win a statewide election in the South [3]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1979, Hatchett was appointed to the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals by President Jimmy Carter, becoming the first black man to be appointed to the federal appeals court in the South [4]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1996, Hatchett was promoted to Chief Judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals [3]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1999, after retirement, Hatchett joined the NAACP to be the lead attorney in the fight to preserve statewide preference programs for minorities and women in Florida [2]; and,

WHEREAS On April 30, 2021, Hatchett passed away at the age of 88; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commemorates the legal legacy of Justice Joseph Woodrow Hatchett;

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the achievements of Justice Joseph Woodrow Hatchett that further advanced the opportunities for African Americans in the legal profession;

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates the life of Justice Joseph Woodrow Hatchett.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. D'Andra Mull, Black Affairs Director Carl Simien, Black Affairs Graduate Assistant Shannon Parrish

[1]<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Former-Justices/Justice-Joseph-Woodrow-Hatchett>

[2]<https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2021/05/01/joseph-hatchett-first-black-florida-supreme-court-justice-dies-at-88/>

[3]<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/hatchett-joseph-woodrow-1932/>

[4]<https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/article/a-supreme-evening-honors-supreme-court-justice-joseph-hatchett>