

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to Rufus Winfield Johnson on the grand occasion of his 95th birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Rufus Johnson was born in Maryland on May 1, 1911; he moved to Coatesville, Pennsylvania, to live with an aunt after the death of his mother when he was four years old; there he completed high school and worked in a steel mill for two years before moving to Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1930, he began studies at Howard University, and he completed the requirements for a law degree in 1939; while attending college, he worked as a lifeguard and at the White House for special events, and later he served as a butler for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1941 to 1942; and

**WHEREAS**, When First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt learned that Rufus was working 12-hour days and at the same time preparing to take the bar examination, she had a desk set up in the White House and told him to study during the two hours she had arranged for him to serve tea; he took the bar examination in September, 1942, and did not learn for six months that he had passed, because he was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and had been called to active duty in October, 1942; and

**WHEREAS**, During World War II, he served as an officer with the 92nd Infantry Division in the famed all-black unit known as the Buffalo Soldiers; noted for his fearless leadership, his tireless devotion to duty, and his sound tactical decisions, he earned the admiration and respect of all who served with him; he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat

Infantryman Badge and received a special regimental citation for bravery; he was called to duty and served again during the Korean War; he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel; and

**WHEREAS**, After returning to Washington, D.C., Mr. Johnson began practicing law; in one particular case in the 1960s that would earn him renown, he argued successfully before the California Supreme Court in defense of the First Amendment rights of American Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, Rufus Johnson is a revered and respected member of his community who has had a positive impact on the lives of many people; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby extend to Rufus Winfield Johnson best wishes for a wonderful 95th birthday celebration; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as a memento of this special occasion.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 27, 2006.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate