

Alachua County Florida

A Proclamation

**Declaring February 13th, 2021 as
“The Honorable Senior Judge Stephan P. Mickle, Sr. Day”
in Alachua County, Florida**

- Whereas,** Stephan P. Mickle was born in New York City on June 18, 1944. After his formative years Stephan moved with his parents to Gainesville, Florida. Graduating from Lincoln High School in 1961. In 1962, he, along with six other African American students, integrated the University of Florida (UF). Stephan became the first African American to obtain an undergraduate degree at UF in 1965, and continued his studies to earn a master's degree at UF. Following his graduate school studies, Stephan entered the UF College of Law. Where he became the second African American to earn a law degree in 1970, making him a triple Gator
- Whereas,** he served as a professor of law at the UF, a position that he held for several decades until he became Professor Emeritus. In 1973, he also established a successful law practice, becoming the first African American to practice law in the history of Alachua County, Florida since Reconstruction.
- Whereas,** in 1979, Stephan Mickle became Alachua County's First African American County Court Judge. In 1984 he was appointed as the first African American Circuit Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida. In 1993, he was appointed as the first African American and only lawyer from the Eighth Judicial Circuit to serve on the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, Florida. In 1998, he was nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the United States Senate as the first African American United States District Court Judge in the history of the United States Northern District of Florida. In 2009, he became the Chief Judge of the United States Northern District of Florida
- Whereas,** Judge Mickle served on the UF National Alumni Association Board of Directors, and on the UF College of Law Board of Trustees, Law Center Association. He was a dedicated lifetime member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church where he chaired the Board of Trustees, taught Sunday school, and served with the Men's and Marriage Ministries. He was a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the NAACP
- Whereas,** Judge Mickle was proudest to be the husband to his beloved wife of fifty-two years, Evelyn Moore Mickle; father to their three children, Stephanie, Amy Grace and Stephan, II, and a nephew/son, Cotie W. Jones; and grandfather. He also leaves to cherish his memory, his mother; Catherine B. Mickle

Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of the Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim February 13th, 2021, as “The Honorable Senior Judge Stephan P. Mickle, Sr. Day” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 13th day of February, A.D., 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: _____
Ken Cornell, Chair

ATTEST:

J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq.