

REFERENCE TITLE: honoring; first African American legislators

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **HR 2002**

Introduced by  
Representatives Crews: Contreras P

### A RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING HAYZEL DANIELS AND CARL SIMS AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1           Whereas, Hayzel Burton Daniels was born in Fort Clark, Texas in  
2 1907. His father was a Buffalo Soldier in the 10th Cavalry Regiment. The  
3 Daniels family moved to Fort Huachuca in 1913 and later to Nogales,  
4 Arizona. An outstanding football player known as the "Flying Ebony,"  
5 Hayzel Daniels was the Arizona Republic's first African American All-State  
6 player, with a 301-yard rushing effort at Tucson High School in 1925. He  
7 received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of  
8 Arizona and became a teacher before serving in the United States Army Air  
9 Forces during World War II. When Mr. Daniels returned from military  
10 service, he attended the University of Arizona to study law; and

11           Whereas, after his graduation from law school, Hayzel Daniels moved  
12 to Phoenix and, although he was Arizona's second black attorney, he was  
13 the first African American to be admitted to the State Bar of Arizona. In  
14 1950, he was elected to represent Maricopa County's 8th District in the  
15 Arizona House of Representatives during the 20th Legislature. After  
16 serving in the Legislature, Mr. Daniels took a position as Arizona's first  
17 black Assistant Attorney General. In 1965 the Mayor of Phoenix appointed  
18 him to the position of City Magistrate, making him the first black judge  
19 in Arizona history. Mr. Daniels went on to found what would become the  
20 Arizona Black Bar Association; and

21           Whereas, Carl Sims was born in Bremond, Texas and moved to Phoenix,  
22 Arizona in 1927. In Phoenix he worked as a gardener and a painting  
23 contractor. Mr. Sims also worked for the Maricopa County Highway  
24 Department and as a Deputy Sheriff in Maricopa County; and

25           Whereas, in 1950, Carl Sims was elected to represent District 19 in  
26 the House of Representatives during the 20th through 24th Legislatures.  
27 During his legislative tenure, Representative Sims championed civil  
28 rights and, in coordination with the Greater Phoenix Council for Civic  
29 Unity, the NAACP, the Urban League and other organizations, pushed for  
30 school desegregation. In the Legislature, Representative Sims sponsored  
31 Arizona's first rabies control bill, which became law in 1962; and

32           Whereas, since Arizona achieved statehood in 1912, countless  
33 citizens of this state have stepped up as employees and elected officials  
34 in various capacities of public service. From all walks of life,  
35 cultures, and religious and political persuasions, these individuals  
36 serve key functions in our state's governmental processes through their  
37 diligent efforts to ensure the well-being of our great state. It is  
38 indeed fitting that we honor the dedicated contributions of citizens such  
39 as Hayzel Daniels and Carl Sims for their historic public service.

40 Therefore

41 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

42           That the Members of the House of Representatives honor the legacy of  
43 Representatives Hayzel Daniels and Carl Sims and pay tribute to their  
44 groundbreaking record of public service.