

1 HR221  
2 191776-1  
3 By Representative Knight  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

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8                   COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. RECY  
9 TAYLOR.

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11                   WHEREAS, Mrs. Recy Corbitt Taylor was an  
12 extraordinary Alabamian whose story and fight for justice was  
13 an early catalyst of the Civil Rights Movement; and

14                   WHEREAS, Mrs. Taylor was born on December 31, 1919,  
15 to a family of sharecroppers in Abbeville in Henry County,  
16 Alabama; and

17                   WHEREAS, on September 3, 1944, Mrs. Taylor was  
18 kidnapped while leaving church and gang-raped by six white  
19 men; despite a confession from one of the men who also named  
20 the others who took part, two grand juries subsequently  
21 declined to indict the men and no charges were ever brought  
22 against her assailants; and

23                   Mrs. Taylor's refusal to remain silent about a  
24 brutal rape she suffered, perpetrated by white men, provided  
25 an early organizational spark for the Civil Rights Movement;  
26 and

1           WHEREAS, Mrs. Taylor's rape and the subsequent court  
2 cases were among the first instances of nationwide protest and  
3 activism among the African-American community; and

4           WHEREAS, the publication of Danielle L. McGuire's  
5 book "At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and  
6 Resistance - a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from  
7 Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power" in 2011, led to a joint  
8 resolution being adopted by the Alabama Legislature officially  
9 apologizing on behalf of the state "for its failure to  
10 prosecute her attackers" and acknowledged "the lack of  
11 prosecution for crimes committed against Recy Taylor by the  
12 government of the State of Alabama," and that "failure to act  
13 was, and is, morally abhorrent and repugnant, and that we do  
14 hereby express profound regret for the role played by the  
15 government of the State of Alabama in failing to prosecute the  
16 crime"; and

17           WHEREAS, Mrs. Taylor passed away on Thursday,  
18 December 28, 2017, just days shy of her 98th birthday, and  
19 three weeks after the release of the documentary, "The Rape of  
20 Recy Taylor"; and

21           WHEREAS, Mrs. Taylor's story is a pivotal link in  
22 the ever evolving pursuit of justice for victims of sexual  
23 assault; her legacy continues to live on in the countless  
24 lives she touched and fuels justice for victims of sexual  
25 violence in all communities, especially for those who feel as  
26 if they have no voice; now therefore,

1                   BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
2           THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Mrs. Recy Corbitt Taylor is  
3           highly honored and commended for her courage and dignity, and  
4           this resolution is offered to her family in admiration and  
5           appreciation of her life's achievement and service, along with  
6           heartfelt sympathy.