

1 HR508
2 194075-1
3 By Representatives Crawford and McCutcheon
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 28-MAR-18

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8 URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A U.S.
9 POSTAGE STAMP IN HONOR OF JUDGE JAMES E. HORTON, JR.

10
11 WHEREAS, we hereby urge Congress to approve the
12 creation of a U.S. postage stamp in honor of Judge James E.
13 Horton, Jr., who displayed immense courage in overturning the
14 guilty verdict and death sentence of Mr. Haywood Patterson,
15 one of the "Scottsboro Boys," an unpopular decision on a
16 historical case saturated with racial hatred and injustice,
17 vocal Klansmen, and threats of lynching; and

18 WHEREAS, the Scottsboro Boys were nine black male
19 youths who had been falsely accused of rape by two white women
20 in Athens, Alabama; Judge Horton willingly committed political
21 suicide by ordering a retrial for Mr. Haywood Patterson
22 because of his powerful sense of justice; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge James E. Horton, Jr., was born in
24 Limestone County, Alabama, in 1878 as the son of a former
25 slave owner; after earning a law degree from the Cumberland
26 School of Law in 1899, he clerked for his Probate Judge father
27 before entering private practice; he served as a member of the

1 Alabama State Legislature, before taking a chancery court
2 opening and returning to Limestone County to serve as a judge;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Judge James E. Horton, Jr., left his seat
5 to return to his private practice and farming; he was elected
6 to a six-year term to the Eighth Circuit Court in 1922 and was
7 presented with the most important retrial of his career, the
8 Scottsboro Boys case during his second term in 1933; and

9 WHEREAS a monumental figure in the United States
10 Civil Rights Movement such as Judge James E. Horton, Jr.,
11 should be posthumously honored with the creation of a U.S.
12 postage stamp; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
14 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Congress is hereby urged to
15 approve the creation of a U.S. postage stamp in posthumous
16 honor of Judge James E. Horton, Jr.