

1 HJR216
2 117691-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-FEB-10

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. EDITH ARMSTEAD GRAY.
9

10 WHEREAS, we note with deep regret the passing of
11 Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray of Evergreen at the age of 99 years;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray, a native of Galveston, Texas,
14 graduated from Tuskegee Institute with a B. S. degree; she
15 toured for six weeks in 1932 with the Tuskegee Institute
16 Choir, performing at the White House and Radio City Music
17 Hall; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray began her career as an educator
19 in Conecuh County in 1934; she taught for 42 years at the
20 Conecuh County Training School, later renamed Thurgood
21 Marshall High School; and

22 WHEREAS, active in civic and political affairs, Mrs.
23 Gray was known by some as the "Mother of Conecuh County"; she
24 was a charter and life member of the Conecuh County Branch of
25 the NAACP and founding member of the Neoteric Club; Mrs. Gray
26 registered hundreds of new voters and was active in escorting
27 voters to the polls on election days; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray was baptized at an early age and
2 remained a committed Christian throughout her life; she was a
3 devoted member of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, where she taught
4 Sunday School for over 30 years; and

5 WHEREAS, known to all as a trailblazer, Mrs. Gray
6 was the first female ever appointed to the Evergreen Housing
7 Authority Board and became the first African American citizen
8 in Conecuh County to have a major public building named in her
9 honor in 2005, with the dedication of the Edith A. Gray
10 Library and Technology Center at Reid State Technical College;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray was preceded in death by her
13 husband, Mr. Philander A. Gray; parents, Henry and Millie
14 Williams Armstead; and siblings, Otis, Alma, Eula, Henry Jr.,
15 Amy, Marian, and Mildred; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray is survived by her sons,
17 Frederick (Barbara) and Jerome; daughter, Phyllis Linda
18 (Morgan); grandchildren, Phyllis Maria Gray-Butts, Morgan
19 Jerome Hallmon, and Bradford Hallmon; great-grandchildren,
20 Bree Gray-Jordan, Jai Butts, and Zoe Butts; nieces, Edith
21 Odell Evans, Renee Armstead, and Jean Gray-Harvey; nephews,
22 John Hilliard, William Joseph Gray, and Jeffrey Mays;
23 sister-in-law, Hilda Gray Massey; and numerous other friends
24 and relatives; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray's passing is a great loss to her
26 family and members of the community who will remember her as a
27 lady who embraced what life had to offer and returned the best

of herself; the memory of her abundant and inspiring life will be treasured in the hearts and minds of many; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with appreciation and gratitude, the life of Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray is honored in this special tribute, and by copy of this resolution, deepest condolences are extended to her family.