

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

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
3 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MRS. EDITH ARMSTEAD GRAY.

4
5 WHEREAS, we note with deep regret the passing of
6 Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray of Evergreen at the age of 99 years;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray, a native of Galveston, Texas,
9 graduated from Tuskegee Institute with a B. S. degree; she
10 toured for six weeks in 1932 with the Tuskegee Institute
11 Choir, performing at the White House and Radio City Music
12 Hall; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray began her career as an educator
14 in Conecuh County in 1934; she taught for 42 years at the
15 Conecuh County Training School, later renamed Thurgood
16 Marshall High School; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gray was baptized at an early age and
24 remained a committed Christian throughout her life; she was a

1 devoted member of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, where she taught
2 Sunday School for over 30 years; and

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

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

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

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

1 of herself; the memory of her abundant and inspiring life will
2 be treasured in the hearts and minds of many; now therefore,
3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with appreciation and
5 gratitude, the life of Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray is honored in
6 this special tribute, and by copy of this resolution, deepest
7 condolences are extended to her family.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 09-FEB-10.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

25-FEB-10

Adopted