

HR851

121435-1

By Representatives Boyd, Hurst, Allen, Baker (A), Baker (L),  
Ball, Bandy, Barton, Beasley, Beech, Bentley, Black, Boothe,  
Bridges, Brown, Buskey, Canfield, Clouse, Coleman, Collier,  
Curtis, Davis, DeMarco, Drake, Dukes, England, Faust, Fields,  
Fincher, Ford, Galliher, Gaston, Gipson, Gordon, Graham,  
Grantland, Greenson, Grimes, Guin, Hall, Hammett, Hammon,  
Harper, Hill, Hilliard, Hinshaw, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard,  
Irons, Ison, Jackson, Johnson, Kennedy, Knight, Laird, Letson,  
Lewis, Lindsey, Love, Martin, Mask, McAdory, McCampbell,  
McClammy, McClendon, McClurkin, McCutcheon, McDaniel,  
McLaughlin, McMillan, Millican, Mitchell, Moore (M), Moore  
(P), Morrow, Newton (C), Newton (D), Oden, Page, Payne,  
Robinson (J), Robinson (O), Rogers, Salaam, Sanderford, Scott,  
Sherer, Shiver, Spicer, Taylor, Thigpen, Thomas (E), Thomas  
(J), Todd, Treadaway, Vance, Ward, Warren, White, Williams  
(J), Williams (P), Wood and Wren

RFD:

First Read: 08-APR-10

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8 RECOGNIZING THE CREATION OF FREEDOM RIDERS PARK.  
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10 WHEREAS, the incident known as the Anniston Bus  
11 Burning was recounted internationally as a symbol of hatred  
12 and violence that added to the incorrect stereotype that all  
13 white Southerners were intolerant and racist; and

14 WHEREAS, the citizens of Anniston responded to the  
15 tragic event, declaring that violence is not the answer to  
16 racial problems; and

17 WHEREAS, when many Southern cities were engulfed in  
18 racial violence, Anniston chose to approach its racial  
19 problems through fair and honest dialogue by way of a biracial  
20 Human Relations Council; and

21 WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy commended  
22 Anniston for its wise and effective plan for developing just,  
23 fair, and peaceful solutions to racial problems; and

24 WHEREAS, President Kennedy, in a public address,  
25 held up Anniston's way of dealing with racial problems as a  
26 model for other cities in America; and

1           WHEREAS, the Freedom Riders played an important part  
2     in the Civil Rights revolution in the 1960s, and the Bus  
3     Burning was visible to the world; and

4           WHEREAS, the Anniston Bus Burning infused new  
5     resolve in Civil Rights workers and thus contributed to the  
6     success of the Civil Rights movement; and

7           WHEREAS, the names of other southern cities became  
8     well-known for racial violence, while Anniston did not become  
9     widely recognized as a city that chose a reasonable and  
10    peaceful approach to its racial problems; and

11          WHEREAS, the generations after the 1960s need to  
12    know not only the stories of racial violence, but the accounts  
13    of the reasonable, common sense, and intelligent approaches  
14    that brought justice, fairness, and goodwill to Anniston and  
15    other communities; and

16          WHEREAS, the project to achieve recognition of  
17    Anniston's commendable history has been a collaborative effort  
18    among Representative Barbara B. Boyd, Mr. Pete Conroy, Mrs.  
19    Georgia Calhoun, Mr. Willie Duncan, Mr. J. Phillips Noble, the  
20    Calhoun County Commissioners, Jacksonville State University,  
21    and the late Representative Lea Fite; now therefore,

22          BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
23    THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That because Anniston played a  
24    unique role in the Civil Rights Revolution, it is wise and  
25    proper to create a Freedom Riders Park on Highway 202, which  
26    will recognize not only the Bus Burning event, but also the

1        resulting progress in justice and fairness that brings peace  
2        and goodwill to communities.