

1 HJR54
2 126275-1
3 By Representatives Warren, Boyd, Moore (M), Coleman,
4 McClurkin, Givan, Weaver, Todd, Hall, Nordgren, Collins and
5 Beech
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 08-MAR-11

8 HONORING MILDRED HEMMONS CARTER.
9

10 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to honor and commend
11 an Alabama heroine, the distinguished pioneering woman
12 aviator, Mildred Hemmons Carter, who became the state's first
13 female African-American licensed pilot; and

14 WHEREAS, Mildred Hemmons Carter earned a pilot's
15 license in 1941 from Tuskegee's acclaimed Civilian Pilot
16 Training Program and was recognized with a special 70th
17 Anniversary Commemoration in February 2011, hosted by the
18 Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center and
19 Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated; and

20 WHEREAS, born in Benson, Alabama, on September 14,
21 1921, she moved at an early age to Tuskegee and later to North
22 Carolina and Holly Springs, Mississippi, where she graduated
23 from high school in 1937 at the age of 15; and

24 WHEREAS, when her family returned to Tuskegee, she
25 enrolled at Tuskegee Institute and graduated in 1941 at age 19
26 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business; her parents

1 were firm believers in the value of education, and all five of
2 their children finished college; and

3 WHEREAS, when the Civilian Pilot Training Program
4 was initiated at Tuskegee, she applied but was rejected
5 because she did not meet the minimum age requirement of 18
6 years; the following year, she was accepted and, when she
7 received her pilot's license on February 1, 1941, she became
8 the first African-American woman in Alabama and possibly the
9 entire south to achieve this distinction; she then applied for
10 the Secondary (Advanced) Program but was denied on the basis
11 that female private pilots were not being accepted; and

12 WHEREAS, later, the United States Army Air Corps
13 announced a recruiting program for female pilots to serve in
14 the Women's Air Service Program; although she was more than
15 qualified for this organization, she was again rejected, this
16 time because of her race; and

17 WHEREAS, through the years, she continued her
18 interest in aviation and participated vicariously through the
19 career of her husband, Herbert E. Carter, an esteemed Tuskegee
20 Airman; the Carters currently reside in Tuskegee and have
21 three children, five grandchildren, and two cherished
22 great-grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, endowed with a keen intellect and
24 exceptional abilities, Mildred Hemmons Carter is propelled by
25 a sense of responsibility to others, and her extraordinary
26 accomplishments are the source of justifiable pride to her

1 family, her community, and the entire State of Alabama; now
2 therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mildred Hemmons Carter is a
5 true pioneering heroine, and this resolution is offered in
6 highest tribute to her on the 70th Anniversary of becoming
7 Alabama's first African-American female licensed pilot as a
8 graduate of the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Tuskegee
9 Institute.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
11 resolution of commendation be provided to her, as evidence of
12 the admiration and appreciation of the people of the State of
13 Alabama.