

1 HJR216
2 128141-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 29-MAR-11

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. JOHN L. CASHIN.
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10 WHEREAS, with profound sorrow and regret, we receive
11 news of the death of Dr. John L. Cashin of Huntsville,
12 Alabama, on March 21, 2011, at the age of 82 years; and

13 WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Cashin leaves a void in
14 the lives of his loving family, his many friends, and the
15 entire community, where he was well-known and highly regarded
16 as an icon of the Civil Rights Movement; among the milestones
17 of his remarkable life, he was the first Black to run for
18 Governor of the State of Alabama; and

19 WHEREAS, born April 16, 1928, in Huntsville, he was
20 a precocious youth who started kindergarten at the age of
21 three and was co-valedictorian with his older brother in their
22 Alabama A and M High School graduating class; he spent two
23 years at Fisk University, attended Tennessee State University,
24 earned his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical School in 1952,
25 and then entered the United States Army, where he attained the
26 rank of First Lieutenant and Chief of Dental Services for
27 soldiers stationed near Fontainebleau, France; and

1 WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, he
2 became active in the Civil Rights Movement and achieved
3 national prominence in the late 1960s when he founded the
4 National Democratic Party of Alabama as an alternative to the
5 Alabama Democratic Party, which was considered racially
6 exclusive; by 1970, his party had helped elect more than 100
7 Blacks to local offices, and Dr. Cashin took the dramatic step
8 of running for Governor in opposition to George Wallace; Dr.
9 Cashin received 125,491 votes, approximately 15 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, in addition to his ground-breaking
11 gubernatorial campaign, Dr. Cashin ran for Mayor of Huntsville
12 in 1964 and led a delegation to the 1968 Democratic National
13 Convention, challenging Alabama's regular delegation; and

14 WHEREAS, through the years, Dr. Cashin earned
15 respect for his exceptional abilities and unwavering
16 commitment to justice and equality; although his presence will
17 be missed, his legacy will endure and his memory will be
18 cherished in the hearts and minds of those who were fortunate
19 to know him; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of Dr. John L.
22 Cashin is recorded with deep sadness and, by copy of this
23 resolution to his daughter, Sheryll D. Cashin, we convey our
24 heartfelt sympathy to his family.