

1 HJR254
2 128430-1
3 By Representatives Holmes, McClammy, Knight, Wren, Love and
4 Hubbard (J)
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 31-MAR-11

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIE ROGERS JONES.
9

10 WHEREAS, with an overwhelming sense of loss, we
11 receive news of the death of Mr. Willie Rogers Jones of
12 Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 2011, at the age of 55
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, the untimely death of Mr. Jones leaves a
15 void in the lives of his loving family, his many friends, and
16 the entire community, where he was well-known and highly
17 regarded for his work on behalf of youth; he served the YMCA
18 as a Senior Vice President and was Executive Director of the
19 Cleveland Avenue YMCA for 15 years; and

20 WHEREAS, born in Montgomery on April 3, 1955, he was
21 a graduate of George Washington Carver High School and Alabama
22 State University; he began participating in YMCA programs as a
23 teenager and worked part time as an aquatics instructor at the
24 Cleveland Avenue YMCA in 1968; and

25 WHEREAS, among his notable community contributions,
26 he conducted the famous Father/Son Banquets at the Cleveland

1 Avenue YMCA, attracting top sports talent to inspire young men
2 and their fathers; and

3 WHEREAS, his additional civic affiliations included
4 the Montgomery Housing Authority Board of Directors and the
5 Montgomery County Recreation Commission; he was a longtime
6 member of the Mt. Zion AME Zion Church; and

7 WHEREAS, in addition to his unwavering commitment to
8 enhancing the lives of underprivileged children, Mr. Jones was
9 passionate about giving nonviolent offenders an alternative to
10 prison and a second chance, focusing on this ideal in his role
11 as chairman of the Montgomery County Community Punishment and
12 Corrections Authority; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was a fixture in city and county
14 meetings, where he always advocated for those without a voice;
15 in 2000, he was instrumental in establishing the Cleveland
16 Avenue Cultural Arts and Education Center, the largest YMCA
17 facility in the country dedicated entirely to the arts; and

18 WHEREAS, he is survived by his beloved wife, Versie
19 Jones, and two children, Jeff and Jennifer; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones' far-reaching contributions to
21 young people and the City of Montgomery are unparalleled;
22 although his presence will be missed, his legacy will endure
23 and his memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of
24 those who were fortunate to know him during the brief span of
25 his lifetime; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the untimely death of Mr.

1 Willie Rogers Jones is recorded with deep sadness, and this
2 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
3 heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.