

1 HR261
2 128479-1
3 By Representatives Boyd, Brown, Hurst and Wood
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-APR-11

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8 COMMENDING THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY MASS CHOIR.
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10 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein conveyed
11 to the Birmingham Community Mass Choir in recognition of its
12 performance as a guest choir at Jacksonville State University
13 in the Theron Montgomery Building on April 10, 2011; and

14 WHEREAS, the Birmingham Community Mass Choir of the
15 Gospel Music Workshop is celebrating its 43rd Anniversary in
16 2011, having attained widespread acclaim for the beauty and
17 power of its performances; and

18 WHEREAS, the chronicle of the Birmingham Community
19 Mass Choir began in 1968, when the late James Cleveland had a
20 dream of organizing a chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of
21 America (GMWA); and

22 WHEREAS, the gifted and dedicated Mary K. Elsay, who
23 was serving as pianist for New Pilgrim Baptist Church, was
24 recruited to implement the organizational plans, and she
25 called upon several area musicians and directors to make the
26 dream a reality; and

1 WHEREAS, under Mrs. Elsay, the Alabama chapter of
2 the GMWA grew and flourished; in 2001, she passed the
3 leadership torch to Lawrence T. Sneed, and Eloise F. Gaffney
4 remained Assistant Chapter Representative, while Christal M.
5 Whitfield was added as Assistant Chapter Representative; and

6 WHEREAS, through the years, the Birmingham Community
7 Mass Choir has been the source of inspiration and enjoyment to
8 countless thousands of fortunate listeners in numerous venues;
9 now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
11 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of its
12 performance on April 10, 2011, in the Theron Montgomery
13 Building at Jacksonville State University, the Birmingham
14 Community Mass is honored and commended and, by copy of this
15 resolution, we convey our admiration and appreciation, along
16 with best wishes for the future.