

1 HJR286  
2 128570-1  
3 By Representatives Rogers, Moore (M) and Robinson (O)  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 05-APR-11

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7  
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIE ROGERS JONES.  
9

10 WHEREAS, with heavy hearts and a deep sense of loss,  
11 we note the untimely death of Mr. Willie Rogers Jones of  
12 Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 2011, at the age of 55  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, a mentor to young people and a champion of  
15 the underprivileged, Mr. Jones was well-known and highly  
16 regarded for his innumerable contributions to the community;  
17 he served the YMCA as a Senior Vice President and was  
18 Executive Director of the Cleveland Avenue YMCA for 15 years;  
19 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, Mr. Jones received numerous awards, the  
8 most recent being the 2009 Alabama State University Small  
9 Business Award, the 2009 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Citizen of  
10 the Year Award, the 2009 Alabama Department of Children's  
11 Affairs Advocacy Award, and the 2008 Volunteer Service Award;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to his unwavering commitment to  
14 enhancing the lives of underprivileged children, Mr. Jones was  
15 passionate about giving nonviolent offenders an alternative to  
16 prison and a second chance, focusing on this ideal in his role  
17 as chairman of the Montgomery County Community Punishment and  
18 Corrections Authority; and

19 WHEREAS, he served on numerous boards such as the  
20 Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, the Department of  
21 Youth Services, and the Montgomery Industrial Board, and he  
22 also chaired the Montgomery County Community Correction  
23 Authority, partnered with the Montgomery Municipal and Circuit  
24 Courts, and worked extensively with the Montgomery Area  
25 Chamber of Commerce; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was a fixture in city and county  
27 meetings, where he always advocated for those without a voice;

1 in 2000, he successfully secured a federal grant to develop a  
2 cultural arts program for inner city youth, and the resulting  
3 Cleveland Avenue Cultural Arts and Education Center is the  
4 largest YMCA facility in the country dedicated entirely to the  
5 arts and offering instructions to disadvantaged children; and

6 WHEREAS, he leaves to mourn his death his beloved  
7 wife, Versie Jones; two children, Jefferson Jones and Jennifer  
8 Jones; and numerous other relatives, friends, and admirers;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones also leaves an unparalleled  
11 legacy of service; although his presence will be missed, his  
12 memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who  
13 were fortunate to know him during the brief span of his  
14 lifetime; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
16 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the untimely death of Mr.  
17 Willie Rogers Jones is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
18 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with  
19 heartfelt sympathy to his grieving family.