

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIE ROGERS JONES.
4

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

9 WHEREAS, a mentor to young people and a champion of
10 the underprivileged, Mr. Jones was well-known and highly
11 regarded for his innumerable contributions to the community;
12 he served the YMCA as a Senior Vice President and was
13 Executive Director of the Cleveland Avenue YMCA for 15 years;
14 and

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

20 WHEREAS, among his notable community contributions,
21 he conducted the famous Father/Son Banquets at the Cleveland
22 Avenue YMCA, attracting top sports talent to inspire young men
23 and their fathers; and

24 WHEREAS, his additional civic affiliations included
25 the Montgomery Housing Authority Board of Directors and the

1 Montgomery County Recreation Commission; he was a longtime
2 member of the Mt. Zion AME Zion Church; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones received numerous awards, the
4 most recent being the 2009 Alabama State University Small
5 Business Award, the 2009 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Citizen of
6 the Year Award, the 2009 Alabama Department of Children's
7 Affairs Advocacy Award, and the 2008 Volunteer Service Award;
8 and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was a fixture in city and county
23 meetings, where he always advocated for those without a voice;
24 in 2000, he successfully secured a federal grant to develop a
25 cultural arts program for inner city youth, and the resulting

1 Cleveland Avenue Cultural Arts and Education Center is the
2 largest YMCA facility in the country dedicated entirely to the
3 arts and offering instructions to disadvantaged children; and

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

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

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

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 07-APR-11.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

21-APR-11

Adopted