

1 HR326  
2 139782-1  
3 By Representatives Moore (M), Robinson (O), Coleman, McAdory,  
4 Givan, Todd, Newton (D), Scott, Treadaway and Rogers  
5 RFD:  
6 First Read: 03-APR-12

8 HONORING JOE MINTER, SR., FOR OUTSTANDING  
9 ACHIEVEMENT.

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to honor and commend  
12 Joe Minter, Sr., in recognition of his outstanding  
13 accomplishments and his many years of work dedicated to  
14 preserving African culture; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Minter is a highly regarded,  
16 self-taught "outsider" artist and visionary who created a  
17 sculpture park, an "African Village in America," at his home  
18 and in an adjacent vacant lot in the Woodland Park  
19 neighborhood of Birmingham; and

20 WHEREAS, born in 1942, he served with honor and  
21 distinction in the United States Army before turning to a  
22 career in metalworking, construction, and roadwork, retiring  
23 in 1995; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1979, he began writing down his personal  
25 meditations on spiritual matters and the African-American  
26 experience, and he began creating his "African Village in  
27 America" in 1988, crediting a vision from God; the resulting

1 work is ongoing and continually enlarged, a densely-packed art  
2 environment consisting of sculptures, monuments, signs,  
3 plantings, and totems; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Minter utilizes lumber, dolls, lawn  
5 ornaments, doors, and other found materials that he shapes,  
6 paints, assembles, and writes messages on; his primary themes  
7 involve African-American history, especially in Birmingham,  
8 including installations that memorialize the 1963 church  
9 bombing and the Birmingham City Jail experience of Dr. Martin  
10 Luther King, Jr.; and

11 WHEREAS, included in the exhibits are  
12 representations of the spirits of African warriors looking  
13 over their descendants, along with depictions of the  
14 achievements of African-Americans in numerous fields, and  
15 there are constant Biblical references, words of praise, hope,  
16 and thanksgiving to God; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Minter has also been featured in a  
18 number of publications and articles and is the author of the  
19 2005 work, "To You Through Me: The Beginning of a Link of a  
20 Journey of 400 Years"; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That Joe Minter, Sr., is most  
23 highly honored and commended for outstanding achievement, and  
24 this resolution is offered in admiration and appreciation to  
25 him for his artistic vision and his contributions to  
26 preserving African culture, along with best wishes in future  
27 endeavors.

