

1 HJR20
2 145266-3
3 By Representatives Robinson (J), Johnson (W) and Boyd
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-FEB-13

8 EXONERATING CHARLIE WEEMS, OZIE POWELL, CLARENCE
9 NORRIS, OLEN MONTGOMERY, WILLIE ROBERSON, HAYWOOD PATTERSON,
10 ANDY WRIGHT, ROY WRIGHT, AND EUGENE WILLIAMS COMMONLY KNOWN AS
11 "THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS."
12

13 WHEREAS, on March 25, 1931, nine black men, Charlie
14 Weems, Ozie Powell, Clarence Norris, Olen Montgomery, Willie
15 Roberson, Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright, Roy Wright, and
16 Eugene Williams, ages 12 to 19, were arrested on the charge of
17 raping two white women; and

18 WHEREAS, all of the men except, 12-year-old Roy
19 Wright, were convicted of rape and sentenced to death, the
20 common sentence in Alabama at the time for black men convicted
21 of raping white women and they appealed; and

22 WHEREAS, during the retrials, one of the alleged
23 victims admitted fabricating the rape story and asserted that
24 none of the Scottsboro Boys touched either of the white women;
25 the jury found the defendants guilty, but the judge set aside
26 the verdict and granted a new trial; and

1 WHEREAS, for the third time a jury, now with one
2 black member, returned a third guilty verdict; charges were
3 finally dropped for four of the nine defendants and sentences
4 for the rest ranged from 75 years to death; and

5 WHEREAS, Clarence Norris, the oldest defendant and
6 the only one sentenced to death, escaped parole and went into
7 hiding in 1946; he was pardoned by Governor George Wallace in
8 1976 after he was found and wrote a book about his
9 experiences; and

10 WHEREAS, it is generally acknowledged that the
11 Scottsboro Boys were the victims of a gross injustice, now
12 therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby acknowledge that
15 Charlie Weems, Ozie Powell, Clarence Norris, Olen Montgomery,
16 Willie Roberson, Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright, Roy Wright,
17 and Eugene Williams were the victims of a gross injustice and
18 give formal exoneration to them.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we request the
20 appropriate state officials to provide a copy of this
21 resolution to the families of the Scottsboro Boys.