

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 EXONERATING CHARLIE WEEMS, OZIE POWELL, CLARENCE
4 NORRIS, OLEN MONTGOMERY, WILLIE ROBERSON, HAYWOOD PATTERSON,
5 ANDY WRIGHT, ROY WRIGHT, AND EUGENE WILLIAMS COMMONLY KNOWN AS
6 "THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS."

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

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

17 WHEREAS, during the retrials, one of the alleged
18 victims admitted fabricating the rape story and asserted that
19 none of the Scottsboro Boys touched either of the white women;
20 the jury found the defendants guilty, but the judge set aside
21 the verdict and granted a new trial; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Clarence Norris, the oldest defendant and
2 the only one sentenced to death, escaped parole and went into
3 hiding in 1946; he was pardoned by Governor George Wallace in
4 1976 after he was found and wrote a book about his
5 experiences; and

6 WHEREAS, it is generally acknowledged that the
7 Scottsboro Boys were the victims of a gross injustice, now
8 therefore,

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we request the
16 appropriate state officials to provide a copy of this
17 resolution to the families of the Scottsboro Boys.

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
9 and was adopted by the House 14-FEB-13.

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Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

16-APR-13

Adopted