

1 HR351
2 152696-1
3 By Representative Jackson
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 24-APR-13

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8 HONORING THE LEGACY OF LINDEN ACADEMY.
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10 WHEREAS, in 1903, the trustees of four Baptist
11 Church Associations consisting of Reverends B. G. Glover, I.
12 S. Steinback, J. C. George, and E. W. Shields of the First
13 Mount Pleasant District Association; Reverends W. M. Green, D.
14 W. Williams, J. H. Martin, J. H. Washington, and Professor J.
15 M. Snead of the Second Mount Pleasant District Association;
16 Reverends M. H. Gilbert, J. H. Smith, W. E. Starke, J. W.
17 Bell, R. W. Wright of the Hope Hill District Association; and
18 Professor H. H. Carr, E. C. Carr, Reverends J. B. Smith, G. C.
19 Smith, and J. R. Dorsie of the Williams Dorsey District
20 Association came together and established a school whose
21 purpose was to provide a high school education for Black
22 youths and others in Marengo County; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend E. W. Shields, who was taught to
24 read and write while still a slave, provided 10 acres for the
25 school where he also taught; and

26 WHEREAS, the school was named "Linden Academy" and
27 its mission was to provide education to the Black students in

1 Marengo County, and in furtherance of that cause it provided
2 on-campus living facilities for those students who did not
3 have transportation to attend on a daily basis; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. George P. Austin was offered and
5 accepted the principalship of the school; and

6 WHEREAS, the school was later transferred to the
7 State of Alabama, and because of the leadership and dedication
8 of Principal Austin, the school was renamed the George P.
9 Austin High and Elementary Schools; and

10 WHEREAS, because of integration, the George P.
11 Austin High School was repositioned as a junior high school;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, through the years, the vast majority of the
14 graduates of the school, in the words of the late Willie
15 Pritchett who served the school as a teacher and guidance
16 counselor became solid citizens of this state and nation; and

17 WHEREAS, two graduates of the school made a great
18 impact on this state and nation, namely Autherine Lucy, the
19 first Black person to be admitted to the University of
20 Alabama, and the Reverend Dr. Ralph Abernathy who emerged in
21 the 1950s and 1960s as a founding and steadfast leader of the
22 civil rights movement; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
24 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby recognize and honor
25 the legacy of Linden Academy and those individuals both known
26 and unknown who contributed to its place in the history of
27 this state and nation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
2 resolution be provided to the Superintendent of the City of
3 Linden School System for appropriate display in the system's
4 central office and the school.