

1 HJR343  
2 152699-1  
3 By Representative Jackson  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 24-APR-13

1 152699-1:n:04/24/2013:LLR/th LRS2013-1610

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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 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, 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.