

1 HR151
2 158186-1
3 By Representative Scott
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 11-FEB-14

8 HONORING THE LIFE OF IOLA MITCHELL BOYKIN.
9

10 WHEREAS, Iola Mitchell Boykin was born on February
11 13, 1914, the eldest child of John and Cornelia Mitchell and
12 destined to a life of great accomplishment and dedicated
13 service to faith, family, and friends; and

14 WHEREAS, she was endowed with a sense of
15 responsibility even as a child and took devoted care of her
16 seven younger siblings; she learned to cook, sew, wash, and
17 iron at an early age and continued to perform household tasks
18 with excellence well into her nineties; and

19 WHEREAS, education was highly valued in the family,
20 and she attended Camden Academy Boarding School in Camden,
21 Alabama, graduating from high school in 1932 and turning down
22 a scholarship to Knoxville College in order to attend Alabama
23 State, Normal College for two years and study to become a
24 teacher of Home Economics; and

25 WHEREAS, her education provided her the opportunity
26 to be an independent young African-American southern woman, a
27 rare accomplishment for the era; upon moving to Fairfield,

1 Alabama, in 1935, she became a member of the First Baptist
2 Church, where she has served over the years in many capacities
3 including the Women's Missionary Society; and

4 WHEREAS, it was in Fairfield that she met and
5 married Theodore Boykin, Sr.; their union was blessed with
6 three children, Gwendolyn, Theodore, Jr., and Kenneth; they
7 also brought Mr. Boykin's first son, Hiawatha, to live with
8 their family after his mother's death when he was 10 years old
9 and maintained a close relationship with him; and

10 WHEREAS, she excelled as a stay-at-home mom,
11 including adding to the family income through her sewing
12 expertise; her much-admired creations included three-piece
13 suits for men and full ensembles for the ladies; the house was
14 always filled with friends and schoolmates, for whom
15 friendship, snacks, and transportation were provided, in
16 addition to various errands and care-giving for anyone in
17 need; and

18 WHEREAS, the life of Iola Mitchell Boykin stands as
19 a testament to love, strength, and godliness; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
21 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That it is a privilege to
22 recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Iola
23 Mitchell Boykin, and this resolution is offered in highest
24 tribute to her life of devotion and service.