

1       HR107  
2       167357-1  
3       By Representatives Rogers, Robinson, Scott, Coleman-Evans,  
4       Givan, Sessions, Gaston and Buskey  
5       RFD:  
6       First Read: 09-APR-15

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RIZCALLAH H. CONSTANTINE.  
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10 WHEREAS, we regret and are greatly saddened to learn  
11 of the death of Mr. Rizcallah H. Constantine; his invaluable  
12 life of 90 years is commended and celebrated with tremendous  
13 thanksgiving; and

14 WHEREAS, the passing of Mr. Constantine leaves a  
15 void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the  
16 entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine started his powerful  
18 ministry in Beirut, Lebanon, at 19 years of age; notably, he  
19 established the first Baptist Church of Bikfaya, Lebanon, and  
20 was influential in the building of churches in five villages;  
21 from these ministries sprung forth subsequent generations of  
22 pastors who have enriched countless lives in Jesus's name; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine was a first-class  
24 calligrapher of the Arabic script, trained by the top  
25 calligrapher in Lebanon during the 1940s; he wrote Bible  
26 verses in calligraphy that found their way to thousands of  
27 homes around the world; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine established the first  
2       Arabic Baptist Church of Birmingham, the first Arabic ministry  
3       in Alabama; the first Arabic radio program on WGIB, and the  
4       annual Arabic Baptist Conference in Shocco Springs Conference  
5       Center; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine married his beloved and  
7       devoted wife, Najla Constantine in 1949, and their blissful  
8       union was blessed with seven children, Samuel (deceased),  
9       John, Samia, Kamal, Lily, Gabi, and Naji; 13 grandchildren;  
10      and eight great-grandchildren; and

11          WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine persevered through  
12      scoliosis and having less than 50 percent function in his  
13      lungs; he was diagnosed with colon cancer in the mid-1990s,  
14      from which he recovered for over 20 years following an  
15      immediate surgery; and

16          WHEREAS, he was a tremendous man with simple faith  
17      that expressed that only God can change a heart to love again;  
18      he demonstrated a profound love for everyone and cared for  
19      those who were persecuted; his greatest desire and heartbeat  
20      has always been "we have to work while it is day; the night is  
21      coming"; and

22          WHEREAS, Mr. Constantine was a valued member of the  
23      community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory  
24      is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were  
25      fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

26          BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
27      THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of

1 Rizcallah H. Constantine, we are extremely grateful for his  
2 abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest tribute  
3 to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to  
4 his family and friends.