

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

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MR. RIZCALLAH H. CONSTANTINE.  
9

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.