

1 HR143
2 167972-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 21-APR-15

8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. WILLIE MINGO CLARK.
9

10 WHEREAS, we note the death of Dr. Willie Mingo Clark
11 on April 15, 2015, with deep sadness and regret; his
12 invaluable life of 83 years is commended and celebrated with
13 tremendous thanksgiving; and

14 WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Clark, an educator,
15 teacher, advisor, leader, mentor, and cherished companion,
16 leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends,
17 and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark was born October 12, 1931, in
19 Troy, Alabama, to the union of the late John C. and Margaret
20 M. Perdew Clark; he was educated in the Troy Public School
21 System, graduating from Academy High School, where he was
22 active in numerous extracurricular activities including
23 football, track, and choir; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark earned his Bachelor of Science
25 Degree in Industrial Art Education from Alabama A and M
26 University in 1950, where he sang in the College Choir; upon
27 graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army and was

1 honorably discharged two years later; he continued his studies
2 at AAMU, earning Master Degrees in trade and Industrial
3 Education and Administration and Supervision; later, he earned
4 his Ed.D. in Education; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark married his high school
6 sweetheart, Lou Verlon Banks, in 1954; he accepted Christ at
7 an early age and was very active in his church, where he
8 offered his beautiful tenor voice gifted to him by God; in
9 1957, he relocated to Huntsville, Alabama, and united with St.
10 John A.M.E. Church, where he faithfully served in a number of
11 leadership roles; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark was an avid educator who loved
13 working with youth; he embarked upon his distinguished 35-year
14 teaching career in 1956 as an Adult-Education Teacher in Troy;
15 over the course of his career, he also served as an Industrial
16 Arts Teacher at Councill High school in Huntsville, as a
17 Diversified Occupation Coordinator at Butler High School, and
18 as Assistant Principal at Johnson High School, where he was
19 employed for 21 years before retiring in 1993; and

20 WHEREAS, his numerous accolades included selection
21 as "Man of the Year" by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and
22 induction into the "District of Alabama Hall of Fame;" as
23 Southern Regional Vice President and Director of National
24 Conventions; June 4, 1983, was declared "Willie Mingo Clark
25 Day in Huntsville" by Major Joe Davis, and the North Alabama
26 Educators Credit Union recently named the Sparkman Branch in

1 his honor for his 30 plus years of dedicated service as a
2 board member; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark's professional and civic
4 affiliations include HEA, AEA, NEA, AVA, North Alabama
5 Educators Credit Union Board, Athletic Booster Club, Kiwanis,
6 and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, where he was
7 President of the Southern Region; his magnificent tenor voice
8 will be missed by his Alpha Phi Alpha ensemble, a group that
9 sang by special request at numerous venues and Alpha Regional
10 and National Conventions all over the country; and

11 WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved and devoted
12 wife; two daughters, Cassandra Clark Thompson (Tommy); and
13 Beverly Hinckley (Stanley); four granddaughters, Kristin Marie
14 Thompson, Jacquelyn Nicole Thompson, Brooke Dionne Thompson,
15 and Lori Gibbons (Anthony); two great-granddaughters, Audriana
16 Ni'shae and Makenzie Danielle Brown; one cousin, James W.
17 Curtis; three sisters-in-law, Annie Stringer (James), Jimmie
18 Lois Banks, and Vera Carter (Bruno); one brother-in-law,
19 Johnny Banks; one goddaughter, Angela F. Smith (Pizas); and a
20 host of nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends; he
21 was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Carlos; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Clark 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 Dr. Clark, we are extremely grateful for his abundant life,
2 and we offer this resolution in highest tribute to his
3 inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt sympathy to his
4 family and friends.