

1 SJR25
2 182046-2
3 By Senators Allen, Singleton, Reed and Smitherman
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 14-FEB-17

8 POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING SHANDY WESLEY JONES ON HIS
9 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EMINENCE AS A PROMINENT HISTORICAL
10 FIGURE IN ALABAMA HISTORY.
11

12 WHEREAS, it is a tremendous privilege to
13 posthumously honor Shandy Wesley Jones for his many
14 contributions and eminence as a prominent historical figure in
15 Alabama history; and

16 WHEREAS, Shandy Wesley Jones was born December 20,
17 1816, on a Madison County plantation; on December 1, 1820, he
18 was emancipated, along with his mother Elizabeth, and two
19 older sisters, Ann and Evalina; he learned to read and write
20 and grew up as a free black man; and

21 WHEREAS, on December 5, 1837, Shandy Wesley Jones
22 united in Holy Matrimony with Georgia native Evalina Love in
23 Tuscaloosa, Alabama; during this time, he purchased and ran a
24 barbershop in a prime location, and by the 1860s, he emerged
25 as one of the richest black men in Alabama; and

26 WHEREAS, Shandy Wesley Jones was active in the
27 American Colonization Society and advocated free blacks moving

1 to the newly formed colony of Liberia in Africa; he was an
2 abolitionist who served in the Alabama Legislature and held
3 the utmost distinction of being Tuscaloosa's first elected
4 black official; on May 21, 1866, he founded Hunter's Chapel,
5 A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and, around this
6 time, he also formed a nearby school for African Americans;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in 1869, Shandy Wesley Jones went into
9 hiding in Moundville, Alabama, to escape the Ku Klux Klan;
10 Shandy Jones later went to Mobile, where his family joined
11 him; Evalina died shortly after moving to Mobile, and Shandy
12 married his second wife, Lucinda Jones; and

13 WHEREAS, September 25, 1871, marks the date Shandy
14 Wesley Jones was appointed to a position in the Mobile Custom
15 House by President Ulysses S. Grant; Shandy Wesley Jones
16 quickly rises to the position of inspector and serves in this
17 esteemed role for 13 years; from 1883 until 1884, Shandy
18 Wesley Jones serves as pastor of Little Zion A.M.E. Zion
19 Church; he died of a heart condition on February 4, 1886, and
20 planned his own funeral service held February 5, 1886; the
21 February 19 issue of The Star of Zion hails him as being one
22 of Zion's old pioneers; and

23 WHEREAS, a special dedication ceremony was held
24 February 1, 2017, to unveil the new headstone for Shandy
25 Wesley Jones' recently discovered gravesite in Mobile's
26 Magnolia Cemetery; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Shandy Wesley Jones is
3 posthumously honored and commended, and this resolution is
4 offered to his legacy in highest tribute, and it is directed
5 that his family receive a copy of this resolution in warmest
6 regards.