

1 HJR471  
2 186605-2  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 09-MAY-17

8 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING.  
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10 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King was born on April 27,  
11 1927, in Marion, Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King attended racially  
13 segregated public schools, graduating from Lincoln Normal  
14 School in 1945 at the top of her class; and

15 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King's prodigious talent as a  
16 musician and singer won her scholarships to attend racially  
17 integrated colleges outside of Alabama, including Antioch  
18 College of Ohio and later the renowned New England  
19 Conservatory of Music in Boston; and

20 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1953, Coretta Scott King  
21 married the man she first met in Boston - Reverend Dr. Martin  
22 Luther King, Jr., with whom she would share a personal life, a  
23 family of four children, and the leadership of a movement that  
24 inspired millions globally; and

25 WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King and her husband returned  
26 to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954, where Martin assumed the role  
27 as pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church; and

1                   WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King worked diligently during  
2 the Montgomery Bus Boycott, historically recognized as the  
3 starting point of this nation's most significant campaign for  
4 civil rights, justice and equality - a movement that demanded  
5 her personal fortitude in the face of death threats, arrests,  
6 house bombings, violence, and economic intimidation; and

7                   WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King regularly emphasized the  
8 importance of recognizing not only the contributions of men  
9 but those of the women, who sacrificed personally and  
10 professionally in the cause of justice; and

11                  WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King's advocacy and activism  
12 helped to move Congress to enact a series of milestone laws to  
13 guarantee equal treatment under the law, including the Civil  
14 Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

15                  WHEREAS, in confronting the cruel assassination of  
16 her husband in 1968, Coretta Scott King demonstrated  
17 tremendous strength in the face of sorrow; and

18                  WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King focused her energy on  
19 founding the King Center, an institution dedicated to the  
20 vision of non-violent social change that defined the life's  
21 work of her slain husband; and

22                  WHEREAS, her resolve, commitment, and passion in  
23 pursuing the cause of justice and equality in the United  
24 States and abroad earned Coretta Scott King the title of First  
25 Lady of the Civil Rights Movement; and

26                  WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King continued her advocacy  
27 in a 13-year campaign to establish a national holiday in

January recognizing the birthday of her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the goals of social love, justice, and equality that he dedicated his life to assure; and

WHEREAS, her activism and commitment to the concerns of justice and fairness extended to matters of equality across communities and around the globe, regardless of gender, religion, ability, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Coretta Scott King authored a book recounting many experiences in life entitled: "My Life, My Love, My Legacy"; and

WHEREAS, the life and commitment of Coretta Scott King have helped to make this country and this world a greater society that embraces the beloved community where justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we offer our tremendous gratitude in commending the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King on this, the 90th anniversary of her birth.