

1 SJR32
2 210510-1
3 By Senators Livingston, Orr, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot,
4 Beasley, Butler, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison, Dunn,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Holley, Jones, Marsh,
6 McClendon, Melson, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sanders-Fortier,
7 Scofield, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 23-FEB-21

8 COMMENDING AND HONORING THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS MUSEUM
9 AND CULTURAL CENTER FOUNDER, SHEILA WASHINGTON.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is a great privilege to extend highest
12 commendations and honor to the Founder of the Scottsboro Boys
13 Museum and Cultural Center, Sheila Washington; and

14 WHEREAS, the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural
15 Center explores and pays tribute to the plight of nine
16 African-American males, ages 12-19, falsely accused of rape in
17 1931 in Alabama; it is with profound sorrow that we note the
18 death on January, 29, 2021, of the Founder and Executive
19 Director, Sheila Washington, at the age of 61; and

20 WHEREAS, her passing leaves a void in the lives of
21 her loving family, many friends, and the entire community,
22 where she was highly regarded; and

23 WHEREAS, she was the first African-American to work
24 at the Scottsboro City Hall; she served 18 years as a Public
25 Relations Manager and Office Manager for the City Mayor; after
26 leaving the mayor's office in 1996, Washington devoted her
27 time to founding the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural

1 Center and eventually getting the nine boys fully exonerated;
2 she secured funding to completely modernize the museum and was
3 working on grants to finish the museum; and

4 WHEREAS, at 17 years old, Washington read a book
5 about the false accusations and trial of the Scottsboro Boys
6 and decided to lead efforts to definitively clear the names of
7 the Scottsboro Boys; she worked tirelessly, fought hard, and
8 faced much opposition to bring well-deserved recognition to
9 the Scottsboro Boys; after nearly two decades of work,
10 Washington opened the museum in 2010; the museum recreates the
11 courtroom where the Scottsboro Boys were put on trial and
12 wrongly accused; and

13 WHEREAS, we honor the focus of her humanitarianism
14 on the worthy goal of bringing honor, dignity, and exoneration
15 to the nine African-American Scottsboro Boys, and she is truly
16 deserving of this significant recognition bestowed upon her;
17 now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Sheila Washington is highly
20 honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to her
21 family in deepest admiration and appreciation for her
22 dedicated leadership in founding and organizing the Scottsboro
23 Boys Museum and Cultural Center.