

1 HR194
2 213070-1
3 By Representative Wood (D)
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 13-APR-21

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MAJOR JOHN WILLIE GIBSON.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on March 23, 2021, of Major John Willie Gibson of Valley, Alabama, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the entire community, where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Major Gibson was born on July 18, 1935, to Willie Green Gibson and Lena Mae Moody-Gibson; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Gip", Major Gibson joined Rehoboth Baptist Church at an early age; and

WHEREAS, he attended Rehoboth High School before graduating from Lanier High School in Lanett, Alabama; in 1954, he relocated to New York City, New York, and was drafted into the military, where he served from September 1954 to November 1956; on July 10, 1954, he married Willie Louise Brown Gibson; during his time in New York, he attended New York University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree, and he worked for Avis Rent-A-Car as a Security Manager for 17 years,

1 which covered the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and
2 Pennsylvania areas; he was the first black to be promoted from
3 Agent to Station Manager and then to City Manager; later, he
4 was promoted to the World Headquarters in Garden City, New
5 York, a position that covered three states, and he was the
6 first black to serve as Union Manager; and

7 WHEREAS, retiring after 17 years, Major Gibson moved
8 back to his home state of Alabama, where he joined the
9 Chambers County Sheriff Department and obtained the rank of
10 Captain; he retired after 23 years of service; later, he
11 joined the Civil Air Patrol in Auburn, Alabama, where he
12 became skilled in Composite, SQ Flight Systems and earned the
13 rank of Major; as his last duty service, he flew helicopters
14 as a Search and Rescue Agent; at his longtime church of
15 Rehoboth Baptist Church, he served as a member of the Trustee
16 Board, the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, a member
17 of the Senior Ministry, the Chairperson of the Building
18 Maintenance Committee, and Church Security; and

19 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his son, Tony
20 Blue; and

21 WHEREAS, Major Gibson is survived by his daughters,
22 Sharon Gibson Williams (Van Don), Terry Gibson, Anita Gibson,
23 Michelle Gibson, Tonia Franklin, and Vanessa Edmonson (Mike);
24 sons, Gregory Gibson (Stacie), Tracey Blue, Marcus Stokes, and
25 Paul Blue; 17 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and five
26 great-great-grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
2 missed, the memory of Major Gibson will be cherished in the
3 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
5 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Major John
6 Willie Gibson is recorded with deep sadness, and this
7 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
8 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
9 many.